ARCHER, NEBR
GENERAL STORE
1887 CENTENNIAL 1987

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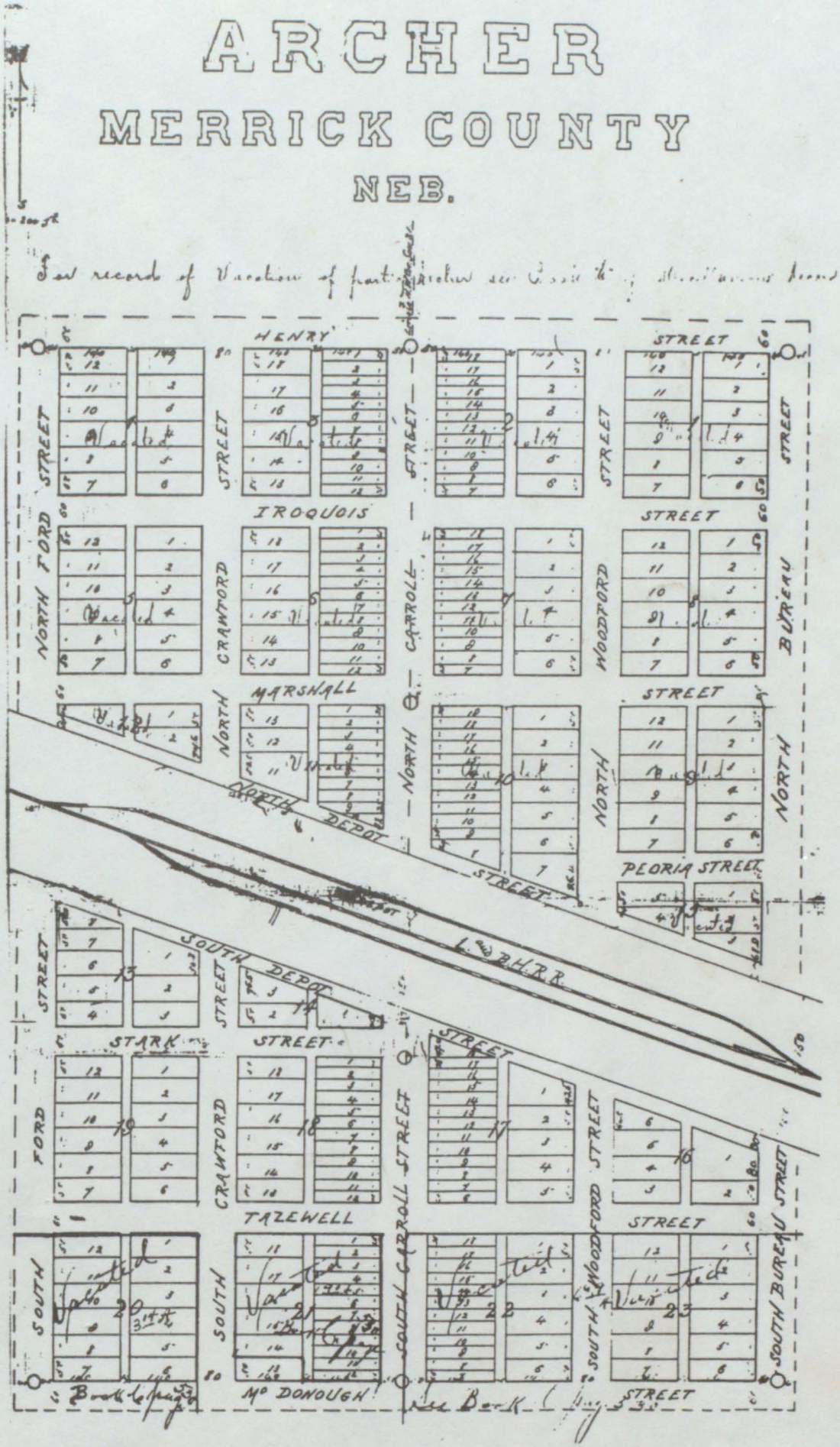
A DREAM
WHICH DIDN'T
COME TRUE.




PLAT OF ORIGINAL TOWN OF ARCHER, NEBRASKA

This book is dedicated to all of the people who have fond memories of ARCHER.

We wish to extend our thanks to the following:

Kelly McBride and Helen Boelts for typing.
To the many people who submitted stories and photographs.
Hards Memorial Library, Central City, Nebraska, who provided information through their tapes of old Merrick County papers.
Hulda Zamzow Schmaltz for providing the story of Archer's beginnings, the impressive business ads and the stories of Archer's merchants in the Central City Nonpareil, August 31, 1916.

Helen Boelts,
Editor.
March 29, 1989.

# LIFE IN A LITTLE TOWN

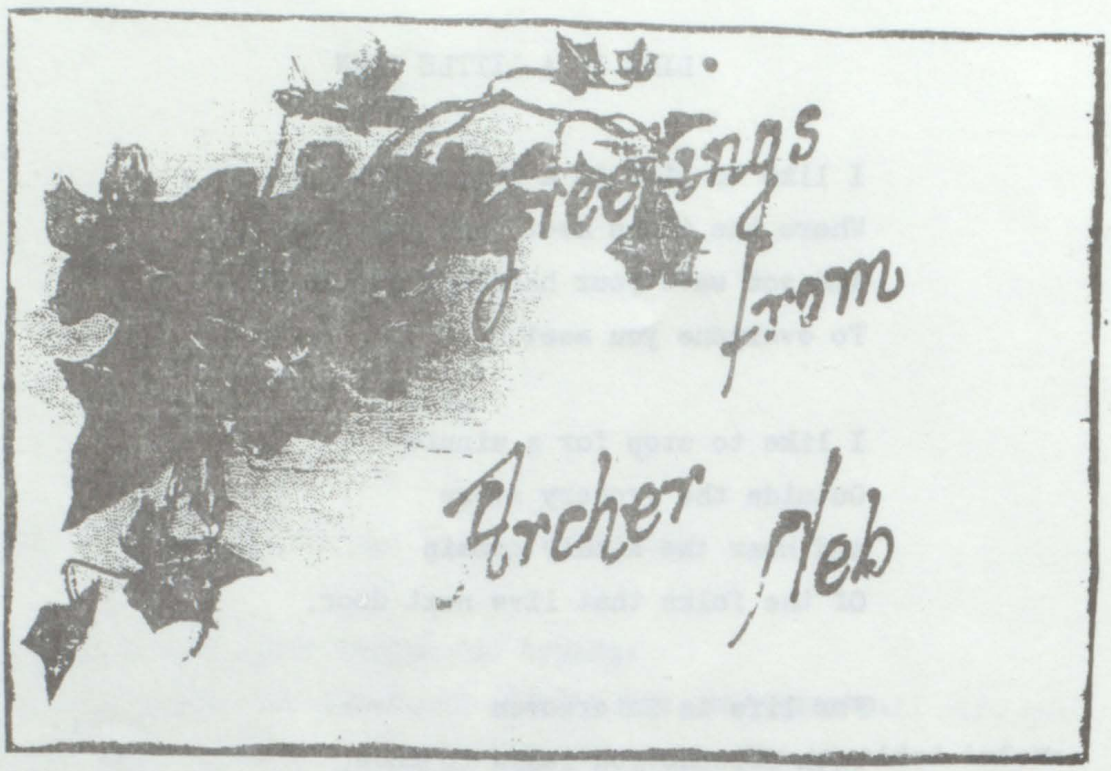
I like to live in a lttle town
Where the trees meet over the street,
And you wave your hand and say "Hello"
To everyone you meet.

I like to stop for a minute
Outside the grocery store
And hear the kindly gossip
Of the folks that live next door.

For life is interwoven
With friends you learn to know,
And you feel their joys and sorrows
As they daily come and go.

So I'm glad to live in a little town
And I care no more to roam,
For every house in a little town
Is more than a house--it's home.

Author--Mrs. Frances (Frankie) Lehr Eckhoff.

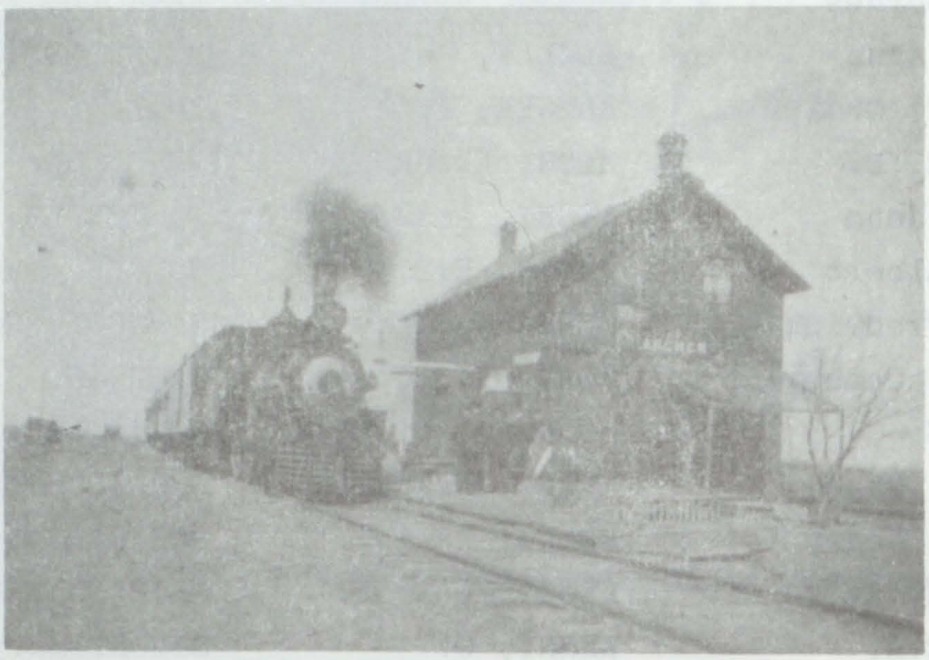


It was with pride that Archer people sent Archer greeting cards to their friends.

This is a listing of heads of household, but does not include wives or children of the head of household. It may include boarders, wards or other adults.

ADAMS, Charles
ANDREW, Ida
BAKER, Gernes
BAHOLD, Anna
BARTLETT, Ohmies
BAUER, E. D.
BENNER, John
BLACK, Albert
BOTTS, Fredrich
BRANLTY, Catherine
BROWN, N.
BURTHAM, Race
BUZZARD, Henry
CAMELOTH, Rale
CLARK, C.A.
CLARK, S.H.
COVER, Edwin
DORILM, Albert
DREILER, J. P.
DUECIL, Heiny
ECKLES, Alfred
ECKLES, John
ENECTOR, Leslie
FARMER, Wm.
FARNHAM, D. William
FERRIS, Albert
FERRIS, Goerge
FLEHARTZ, Oliver
FRAZER, L.L.
FREDRICH, J.
FREGE, Marvin
GARDNER, Goerge
GARSWOLD, John
GURNEY, Letty
HACKETT, Ins.
HALCH, Wm.
HALICY, F.
HEANN, Arthur
HEULLY, Kati
HUMNER, Erte
HUSH, Frank
INCHI, Amave
JAMES, E.D.
JEFFERS, John
JOHNSON, Lucian
JOHNSON, Wilhm
KELLY, Franklin
KELLY, Lewis
KENNIDY, S. F.
KENNY, C.
KENNY, Elmer
KEYES, John M.
LEIWIN, Robert
LEHR, E. W.
LEIVIN, Robert
LIEBERT, Wm.
LIBGRAT, John
MALLUVE, Benj.
MALSTREAR, Anna
MANNING, A.D.
MARSH, William
McCABE, Winfield
McENDRY, E.
MERRITTE, R.
MICKHAM, E.H.
MILLER, James
NITZEL, Christian
PALMER, Amy
PASSEL, J.
PULKI, James
RASER, Albert
REESE, O.
REYNOLD, Elizabeth
REYNOLD, Charles
ROULBAR, Lucy
RULL, G.
SACTOR, W.A.
SALLER, Samuel
SAMPSON, Paul
SAMPSON, Saul
SCHMEZER, J.
SCHROEDER, Fred
SHEAR, Oliver
SHILELSHEAR, C.
SIMON, Mary
SINCIL, James
SINCIL, M.P.
SLATTER, Charles
SLONER, A.E.
SLONER, Hannah
SMITH, Jamesy
SMITH, Henry
SUTHERLAND, W.
SWARTOUT, J.B.
TEMPLIN, J.B.
THOMPSON, Ervin
VAN PELT, J.D.
WAGNER, August
WAGNER, Charles
WAVERLY, Minor
WELLER, E.H.
WILLIAM, Wm.
WRIGHT, John
YOUNG, J.
YOUNG, John

*Spelling was only as good as the ability of the Census Taker



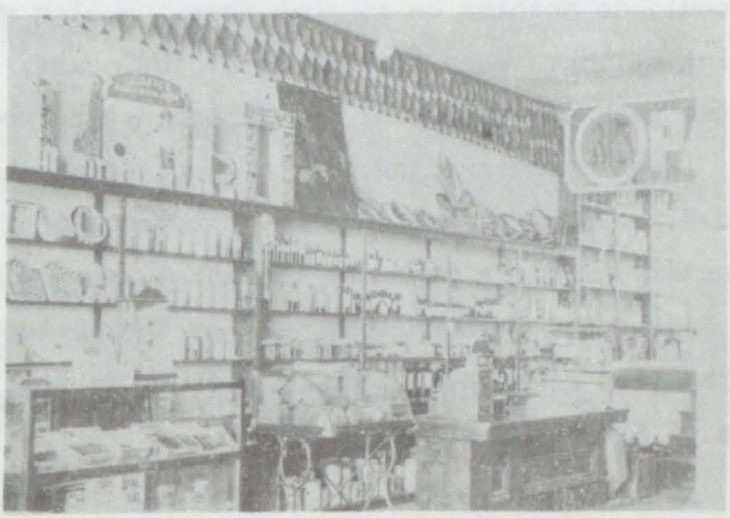
THE ARCHER DEPOT

A most important building. Without the railroad, Archer probably would never have existed. In addition to handling the trains, the depot agent sent out and received telegraph messages via Western Union.

The Midland Mercantile Company is another of the same kind and untiring efforts and has made this place a mecca for the farmer.

The implement business is handled by F. C. Wegner, who is the son of an old settler, and who by the way knows what he is talking about in his line.

John Zamzow, who conducts the furniture, hardware, and harness business, is another one of the live wires in this little town, as is his cousin Julius who conducts the blacksmith shop.



**Interior**

**Archer Drug Store--Minor Whaley, proprietor.**

# EARLY ARCHER

The following is taken from the Central City Nonpareil, August 31, 1916

Archer is situated about midway between Central City and Palmer. It is a prosperous village of about 300 people.

In a personal letter to an old inhabitant of this city, Mr. C. D. Chapman who was connected very actively with the beginning of this town, he relates a story that will interest every inhabitant of the community.

"In the winter of 1886, I wrote to Mr. Touzalin of the B. & M.. and suggested an extension of the road from Central City to St. Paul, setting forth in my letter the advantages of drawing to his railroad freight traffic for Chicago that then went to the Union Pacific. At that time I only received an acknowledgement of the receipt of the letter, but in about thirty days there came a letter from Mr. Touzalin, thanking me for my suggestion and stating that although they could do nothing on it that year the plan would be filed for use the following spring. When the spring of 1887 came, I received word that in about two weekssurveyors and the railroad gang would be along and commence work. I was corresponding for the Courier at that time and stated that the B. and M. would soon commence the extension of its line from Central City out our way. Nearly everyone thought I was joking, but in two weeks more surveyors had come. Through them, and by the advice and counsel of others, I got the town of Archer located where it is now, and later secured for it the name of Archer.

"In the fall of 1887, E. Hansen moved the Adams Center Creamery and Store into the new town, from its former site, two miles southest. In the spring of 1888, I put up the first building--a store 16 by 32--and later put up a larger store. H. O. Chapman taught the first school."

Thus was the beginning of the town. Today (August 31, 1916) it is a teeming community. That it is alive and doing is evidenced by the fair that is held each year by the enterprising merchants. This fair possibly enjoys the distinction of being the <u>only Township fair</u> in the state. What really should be done in this case is for the merchants to organize and secure

recognition from the state and county and in that way add to the laudable enterprise.

Possibly another distinction that the little town enjoys is that it has the oldest individual creamery in the state. This institution has withstood the attacks of centralization for the past nine years and still does one of the best businesses that an institution can have of this kind.

The bank shows another evidence of peoples' prosperity, as it carries about $60,000 in deposits.

The garage is in good hands and the tourist who comes to grief in this town can rest assured that he will be well taken care of.

The meat market is a model of cleanliness and the proprietor, Wesley Huff, need have no fears that the people do not appreciate his courtesy and his willingness to serve them everything in this line.

The S. D. Ayres Lumber Company has a yard here, and under the able management of G. Eckhoff, enjoys a trade that is amply sufficient.

The lunchroom which is conducted by Mrs. Huff, is one that the little town can be proud of. It is a personally conducted one and she takes a special pride in her work that makes one feel that it is a real pleasure to take lunch there.

The drug store is a branch of a Central City store and is well stocked and managed. (Editor's note, "I believe that Minor Whaley was the manager.")

The Hord Grain Company maintains an elevator and coal shed under the management of "Honest" Charlie Woodward.

It has two general stores that have everything that a well ordered community could desire. That of Bonness and Dippel is one that would go well with a town much larger and the proprietors are energetic and painstaking in serving the public.

# SOME RAILROAD BENEFITS

The railroad was very important to early Archer. In fact, Susan Fauquier Hubbard of Chambers, Nebraska, now well past ninety years of age, owes her life to the railroad. The Charlie Fauquier family lived a few miles west of Archer when their little daughter became very ill. Dr. Whittaker of Central City came faithfully every day on the train to Archer to care for little Susan. When he had almost given up hope for the little girl, he said to her worried parents, "Let me know if she doesn't live through the night. Then I will not come out." Susan, thanks to Dr. Whittaker and the train, lived. (Told to Helen Boelts by Lizzie Fauquier Coleman, Susan's sister.)

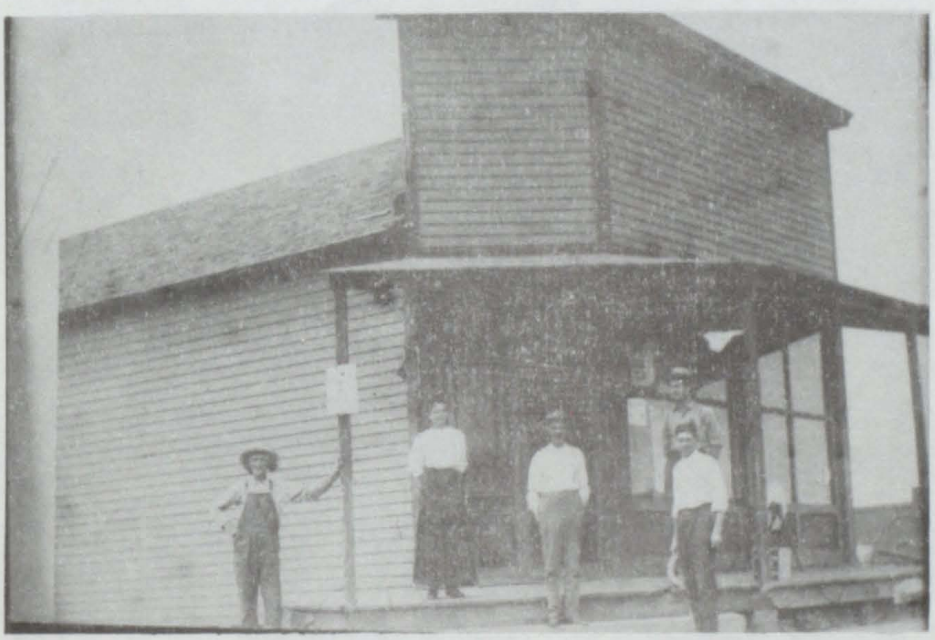
Margaret Boelts and Ethel Van Pelt took music lessons from Blanche Hastings in Central City. Margaret drove her horse and buggy to her father's cousin's Emma Boelts' home and left her transportation there for the day. She took the train to Central City for her music lesson. Ethel Van Pelt drove a horse and buggy to Archer and tied her horse downtown, and then like Margaret, took the train to Central City for her music lesson.

The arrival of the train was an important daily event in the lives of the Archer people. The postmaster greeted it with his mail handcart. People got on the eastbound train to go to Central City for visiting and shopping and to ther points eastward. Some people went to Palmer and other westward destinations on the westbound train.

Other citizens assembled at the depot just to watch the trains come in.

Submitted by Helen Boelts

George Kull was one of the early postmasters of Archer.



Bonness and Dippel Store

# WILLIAM O'CONNOR

William O'Connor, the long time banker at Archer's Citizen State Bank, was a remarkable person. He was an Irish Catholic who enjoyed great popularity in a predominately German and Yankee Protestant community.

He was a person who liked people, and who worked hard to promote the businesses in the community. It was his idea to hold Archer Market Day, May 16, 1916. He promoted the Midland Township Fair in September, 1916.

Hulda Zamzow Schmaltz, who clerked at Bonness and Dippel's store has commented on Mr. O'Connor's enthusiasm for putting Archer on the map.

The Archer "Peanuts", a young boys' baseball team, was his pride and joy.

The following is a quotation from a Central City paper of August, 1914,

"Bill O'Connor loaded his baseball team, the "Peanuts", into his car and went down to Chapman, where they played the Chapman "Tigers" and sad to relate they were defeated by a score of 34 to 25, but defeat was made easy for the boys by the fine treatment received by the Chapman fans. The "Peanuts" were treated to ice cream and watermelons and also received half of the gate receipts, which amounted to thirteen cents each. Ty Cobb (Elmer Bonness) got a two base hit and has grown about a foot since the game. The "Peanuts" are practicing daily and getting into shape to turn the tables on Chapman when they come to Archer next week."

To this day Elmer Bonness is known as "Ty".

May Billy O'Connor never be forgotten!

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On the following pages are some ads from the Central City Nonpareil, August 31, 1916.

# MIDLAND TOWNSHIP FAIR

## At Archer, Nebraska

## Wednesday, Thursday and Friday

### SEPTEMBER 20 - 21 - 22, 1916

**Balloon Ascension each day. Base Ball Games, Races, and a complete display of Farm Products. Band Concert each afternoon and evening. Speaking each evening of the fair by some of the most prominent men in Nebraska**

NO ADMISSION CHARGE. WATCH THE NONPAREIL NEXT WEEK FOR COMPLETE PROGRAM

# ADAMS CENTER

## Creamery Co.

### Oldest Creamery in the State of Nebraska

**Is up-to-date in its make and offers**
ITS PATRONS HONEST TREATMENT, PAYS BEST PRICE THE MARKET WILL AFFORD AND SQUARE DEAL TO ALL TRY US.

## E. HANSEN

PROPRIETOR.

# Ayer's Lumber Company

## Archer

**Lumber of All Kinds**
**Cement Blocks**
**and Coal**

**GEO. ECKHOFF, Mgr.**

PAUL BONNESS EDW. M. DIPPEL

# Bonness & Dippel

## Archer, Nebraska

THE SQUARE DEAL STORE
Handles a General Line of Merchandise, consisting of Groceries, Dry Goods, Boots and Shoes and Hardware.

A complete stock of the above always carried on hand. All kinds of produce bought at all times of the year. Our prices are right.

# J. G. ZAMZOW

## General Blacksmithing

Archer, Nebraska

Authorized Agents for Corona Wool Fat

# John P. Zamzow

## HARDWARE

### Harness and Furniture

When in need of anything in my lines it will pay you to investigate my prices before buying elsewhere. Everything in Pumps, Pipes, Fittings, Etc. Riverside Ranges and Heaters. Let us show them to you. We also do Plumbing, Tinning and Harness Repairing. Soliciting your patronage, I am

Yours for Business

# John P. Zamzow, Archer, Neb.

# Cash Meat Market

We receive meat twice a week. The Best quality and at a price that is consistent.

Our Pleased Patrons Are Our Best Advertisement

**W. HUFF**

Archer, Nebraska

# Hot Lunch

The best fed man
Wins the battles
In the contests
Waged today

By that we do not mean the one who eats the most, or the one who pays the most, but the one who gets the best wholesome, well balanced rations, which his system demands, served clean, neat and promptly.

**Our's is Such a Place**

**W. Huff**

Archer, Nebraska

# F. C. WEGNER

ARCHER, NEBRASKA

## FARM
# Machinery
## and Implements

Platner Stacker, Webber-Bettendorf and Rock Island Wagons, Oliver and J. I. Case Gang Plows, Sandwich Farm Elevators, I. H. C. Tractors and Engines of all sizes, McCormick and Deering Mowers and Binders. Also a full line of repairs for same.

**DeLaval and Blue Bell Cream Separators**

**A Full Line of Up-to-date Top Buggies**

Center of Merrick County

# Midland Mercantile Company

Archer's Pioneer Store

The CENTRAL CITY REPUBLICAN of July 11, 1929, gave Archer a full page spread advertising these businesses:

ARCHER STATE BANK

DRUG STORE--R. F. Bartels, manager

ARCHER ELEVATOR--C. H. Woodward, manager

QUALITY STORE--P. C. Woodward, proprietor

S. D. AYRES LUMBER and COAL--

Pat Eckhoff, manager

BAKER and RAWLINGS--Farm implements

PAUL BONNESS STORE*

PERRELL BARBER SHOP

CREAM STATION--Genevra Grace, manager

GARAGE--W. P. Grace, owner

* Paul Bonness advertised shoes at $2.95 and $6.45 a pair. Can you imagine that?

## EARLY BUSINESSES

In the distance, Archer Methodist Episcopal Church at the left, at the right the Franks Hotel.

Banker, Billy O'Connor, and some of his young Archer friends.

# BONNESS STORE

Submitted by Kathryn Ferris

To the fledgling community of Archer, Frank Schroeder and Frank Wagner came to establish a general mercantile business. Mr. Schroeder's "Uncle Barney" Schroeder had encouraged Frank to borrow $500.00 from his (Frank's) father to invest in the business. This same "Uncle Barney" Schroeder then acquired a position for Paul Bonness, step-son of the Schroeders, as a clerk in the Schroeder-Wagner store in 1900. Paul's mother had been widowed in Germany when Paul was an infant. She journeyed to Ithaca, Nebraska to marry Mr. Schroeder.

Upon learning that "Grandpa" Schroeder intended to sell that $500.00 note, Paul, a self-educated and far-thinking man, scraped together the necessary cash to become part owner of the Wagner-Bonness General Mercantile store. After buying the rest of the business from Wagner, Paul invited Ed Dipple to buy into the establishment. Later, after buying out Dipple, the store became wholly family-owned with Paul's sons Harvey first, and then Arther and Elmer (Ty) becoming partners and owners after Paul's death in 1932. The store was run by the brothers Harv and Ty until a few years after Harvey's death; the business was sold twice and shortly ceased to exist.

Several Archer-ites who clerked in the store were Phocian Hansen, Pat Eckhoff, Hulda Zamzow Smaltz and Opal Woodward (as well as others we've forgotten) and Paul's daughters, Evelyn Wauneta and Eleanor. These latter helped out on "free show" nights during the 1930's when the town would be full of people seeking some bright spot on the dim economic horizon.

The front part of the store housed the grocery and dry goods sections. The salesmen who called on the store owners came by Burlington passenger train, arriving laden with sample cases and staying overnight in the Chris Franks Hotel and leaving on the train the next day.

The newer addition on the west end of the store building housed hardware and housewares (including kerosene cook-stoves), a nail bin that had several rotating wheels, and the "egg-candling" machine. The vinegar barrel was in the basement, feed and block salt in the warehouse building in back, and the live poultry was kept in the chicken house on the north end of the warehouse.

The store was always a social as well as a commercial center of the town. The middle section of the building was where the floor furnace was located and the office roll-top desk, as well as the two phones representing two different phone companies were here. Many tales told and news exchanged kept life interesting at "the store".

## BONNESS AND DIPPEL STORE AT ARCHER ROBBED
## 1916

The Bonness and Dippel store at Archer was entered by force Tuesday evening and merchandise in the value of $600 was taken. To date the officials have no definite clue to the identity of the burglars. Entrance was gained after one o'clock Tuesday night by forcing the front door. An itemized list of the lost is as follows: 12 pair ladies' shoes, gun metal, "Royal Blue" stamp on the bottom; 10 pair ladies' shoes, "Royal Blue" stamp on the bottom; 18 pair men's shoes, gun metal, Selz brand; 4 pair men's shoes, vici kid; 10 pair assorted shoes; 1 1/2 dozen pair men's kid gloves; 7 bolts Chinese silk; 18 pieces fancy silks; 5 bolts serge.

To all evidences the thieves made their getaway by means of a Ford car, traveling north from Archer. The owners will pay a reward of $25 for the recovery of stolen goods and $25 for the arrest and conviction of theives. Sherriff Scudder yesterday mailed descriptive cards to officials in all sections of the state.

## AVIATION AT ARCHER

The old timers remember, but does the younger generation know that there was a flying school in the vicinity of Archer?

The Kyes Service Station was two miles north and one mile east of Archer where the Virgil Lindner family now lives. The service station was a popular meeting place for the youth of the community. Leonard Kyes was a licensed pilot who barnstormed and gave flying lessons. The following ad was in the Central City Republican Nonpareil, March 28, 1936.

LEONARD KYES
SERVICE STATION AND FLYING SCHOOL

Kerosene and Tractor Fuel in the bulk at the station or delivered by truck
A complete line of Tractor and Car Oils
Gold Bond and Utility Pressure Gun Grease in 4 lb. and 25 lb. pails
Gold Bond Graphite Dark Axle Grease in 10 lb. and 25 lb. pails
Gold Bond Machine Oil
We are not undersold on Quality Merchandise.
Take home a quart of our homemade ice cream at 40¢ Pint 20¢.
FLYING INSTRUCTIONS $7.50 per hour in the Arrow Pursuit.

# ARCHER--THE VILLAGE HARMONIOUS AND THE HOME OF THE HAPPY

By D. L. Gardner
December, 1925

In the year 1887 the Burlington Railroad Company laid down a streak of rust through the sunflowers from Aurora northwest. On Prairie Creek, a town site was laid out and named Archer in honor of an old railroad conductor by that name. There is an Archer, Iowa, Archer, Texas, and Archer, Wyoming, but Archer, Nebraska has them all skinned.

The town is 38 years old and has 160 children, not counting Grant Gillham, who moves into and out of town so often that his status as a resident is doubtful. This domesticated colony of human beings, consisting of many types and nationalities, religion, creed and politics, go to make up the happiest, healthiest, most prosperous and self-satisfied community to be found.

Observations covering 45 years, bring out the fact that cyclones always miss Archer, generally passing through Irishtown south and east of here. It takes all kinds of people to make a town, and we've got 'em.

One time not long ago, Nelson P. Updike, the Omaha grain magnate and publisher, got lost on a tour, and accidentally landed in Archer. Nelson said, "Well! Well! I didn't expect to find a layout like this here." Nels got several new subscribers for his paper on the strength of that remark, although some did not know just what he meant.

Now as to the healthiness of our town (one low brow called it a dump). There has been a succession of doctors, "yarb" "hoss" chiropractor, rub, faith, not mentioning the Doctors of Divinity, that have tried to make a living in Archer and failed owing to the dearth of sick folks.

Then look at our streets. We have the largest percent of gravelled streets of any town within a radius of 200 miles, plus abundance of parking space and no traffic cops to be bothered with. Nor are we bothered about building permits, sign regulations, sewer tax, dog collars, nor peddler's licenses. Nor do we have to elect a mayor every so so often.

A stranger within our gates is not a stranger long; unlike the people of a metropolitan city, our natives gather around the newcomer, look him over, talk with him to find out how much he knows, and the ice once broken, his business, religion, politics and peculiarities are known. Then we proceed to have some fun with him. That's the way we got a lot of our good people.

As far as the records show, Archer people have always been law abiding citizens. No resident of Archer has ever spent a day in jail. Everyone has business to attend to and is doing so. They have picnics, parties, socials, club meeting, entertainments, checkers, golf, and many other wholesome pastimes. A good live Methodist Church exists here, with a big Sunday school. Our common school we are proud of. Our people trade at home, which helps home enterprise.

The town enjoys a business that keeps all hands busy: two general stores, one drug store, one garage, two cream stations, one blacksmith shop, one elevator, one barber shop

and a confectionery, one bank, one implement shop, and one common people that are interested in the welfare of their neighbors and are not found wanting when needed.

The quiet hamlet is dotted with radios and but little transpires in the world that the people know not of. The farmers adjacent to town have formed a union. The Archer Shipping Association has been in existence several years. The Modern Woodmen have a lodge here, also their auxiliary the Royal Neighbors. The C. O. A. Club and L. A. L. Clubs stillexist. The Ladies Aid Society, Parent Teachers Assoc., Home Makers Club and the Amalgamated Society of Ancient and Modern Section Bosses keeps the social calendar filled. Chicken stealing is unknown. We have no earthquakes. None of our people care to go to Florida. We have varieties of climate to suit the most fastidious. No native of Archer ever felt a wood tick. The dogs all bark in unison and it gets quiet sooner. We have no professional reformers to reform. The hoot owl lulls us to sleep at night and the pheasants awaken us in the morning.

Amen.

ONLY WORDS OF PRAISE FOR MIDLAND TOWNSHIP FAIR
October 15-17, 1916

There is no other verdict of such weight and prestige as that of the general public, and the decision rendered by this court of last appeal is well earned by the people of Midland Township. The big fair which terminated last Friday was in every sense of the word, a success, and the several thousand people in attendance bore to their homes in every section of the county the message that the first effort of Midland Township was one of the foreshadowing of greater achievements.

The exhibits surpassed all general expectations, and it was difficult to associate such a vast array of such a limited territory as one township. The agricultural and poultry entries were under the supervision of C. O. Moore in the F. C. Wagner implement building. Here also was exhibited the domestic science display, Miss Veda Hansen and Agnes Anderson being superintendents of this department. This building was the center of activity, and to the credit of those in charge, we must add that the quality and quantity was strengthened by artistic arrangement. Not only were the displays presented to an advantage, but the wall decorations combined to secure a most pleasing effect. The needle work display, like all others large and meritorious, was exhibited at the hall, Mrs. W. P. Grace being in charge. To W. O. Shattuck was assigned the superintending of the colt show, and herein was emphasized another Midland industry of proportions.

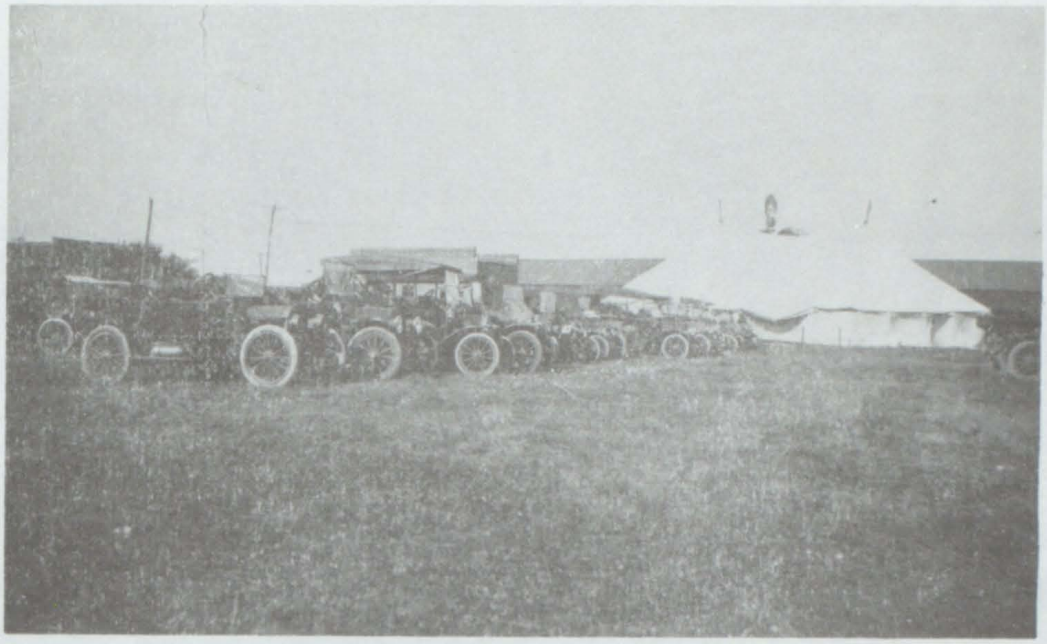
Entertainment was by no means confined to the realities of life, for an abundance of amusement was provided. From far and wide concessions came in response to no license and free and suitable location. For two days the juvenile element reveled in the presence of the first merry-go-round ever operated within the borders of Archer. Hamburger stands and paddle wheels marked the street corners, and dotted the intervening

distance. The Archer Band was out in force, and both days rendered concerts of the type that years ago won this body the distinction of being the best musical organization in the state.

Each morning there was a blue rock shoot for turkeys and ducks, and many a Thanksgiving anticipation was demolished as a result. Dinner and supper were served at the big tent by the town ladies, and on Friday by the country ladies, and two funds were substantially augmented as a direct result. A free street performance by the Twin City Amusement Co. of Council Bluffs and a parade led by the "Dutch" burlesque band were daily features, and although it did not require three hours to pass any one given spot, one entry of Deacon Gardner clad in a clarinet and a kimona sufficed for a three hour laugh. In the ball game of Thursday the lads of Irishtown fared badly at the hands of Archer home talent losing the game of 12 to 5. A grand ball at the opera house each evning served as a fitting finale to the day's program.

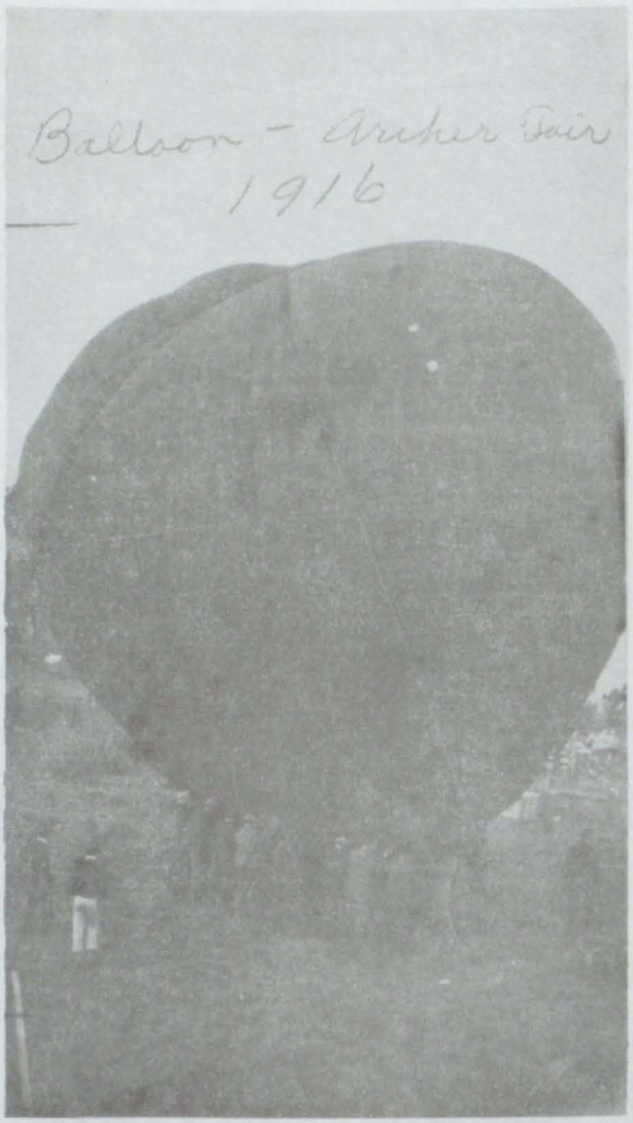
A large number of cars parked just south of the Bank and the streets thronged with people both Thursday and Friday bore witness of the biggest day of the history of Archer. And on Friday the attendance would have been greater had not a rain of the drizzling type had not interfered. Due to it, a ball game with Irishtown was impossible. A still wind Thursday and the rain on Friday made the balloon ascensions impossible, a disappointment alike to the promoters and the public, but the management of the fair did not discourage, and Saturday this feature was given for the benefit of the community.

Such a fair was the result of teamwork, every resident of the township realizing that he had an assignment and performing his part to the best of his ability. To Will O'Connor especial credit is due, for not only did he reveal himself an originator of ideas but a perfector as well. The merchant body contributed liberally, and on the two days of the fair quoted exceptional bargains, such as 18 pounds of sugar and 10 bars of soap for 25 cents. All amusements listed by the fair committee were free of charge, a courtesy to visitors from which many larger towns might profit.



Parking Lot for the Fairgoers

The Community Ladies Provided Good Food.




Getting Ready for the Balloon Ascent

# MARKET DAY AT ARCHER PROVES A HUMMER
May 16, 1916

As the result of such boosters as Will O'Connor, and there are a good bunch of them, Archer deprived Chicago of its title as the Hub Tuesday, when Market Day was observed in a royal fashion. It seems that the weather man was on their side, and gave them the only day of sunshine we have had the privilege of enjoying in weeks. Shortly following the noon hour, every avenue leading to Archer was dotted with vehicles. Hitching posts proved far too few in number and the buggy just ahead had to be utilized for that purpose. There were in attendance people from Palmer, Chapman, Central City and Clarks and from all of the intervening territory, it being estimated that the little town was visited by more than seven hundred citizens of our county.

The big feature of course was the general auction sale at which more than thirty head of horses and mules, twenty head of cattle, and an equal number of hogs were offered. Will Shelton was at his best, and the huge offering of live-stock, implements and miscellaneous articles was reduced in short order. The merchants likewise had many offers made especially tempting for this day alone, and big sales were registered. Martin Brothers celebrated the opening of their furniture store, and refreshments were served to many. Earl declares the whole program of the day a hummer and everyone seemed to enjoy the occasion to the fullest extent.

The condition of the roads was such as to restrain many to this place, who would have otherwise been present and the same will hold true in other localities. But there were those who faced the perils of the muddy roads and felt well repaid for their efforts.

The purpose of Market Day was to bring the farmers and merchants together in one big gathering, and the inducements were sufficient to accomplish this and in addition to provide entertainment. It was not alone a business event, but a social one as well. Archer has taken the lead in the cooperative movement with the application of original methods, and from her many towns greater in size could learn a good lesson. The boys are good boosters because their hearts are behind the movement.

The Mentzer burro. Mr. Mentzer operated a cream station west of the Bonness and Dippel store.

Minor Whaley, the druggist, invented a street cleaner to keep the dust down on Archer's unpaved streets. Picture taken in 1915. Howard Hubka's garage is located where the neat looking lumberyard shown in the picture stood.

The early party line telephone was most important to the citizens of Archer and the neighboring farms. Ed Lehr, a somewhat crotchety gentleman, was the lineman, the workman who kept the lines in order. His wife, a pleasant lady, operated the switchboard.

There probably were six or eight parties on a line. Each party had its own ring. Ours was two longs and two shorts. There was a period when Archer did not have a telephone directory, but where one was finally issued, our number was 0822.

One of the pastimes in those days was rubbering--that is taking the receiver off the hook and listening to other peoples' conversations. In other words, that was a way of learning what the neighbors were "up to".

If one wanted to talk to someone on another line, he'd have to ring one ring to get Central. Central, otherwise Mrs. Lehr, would answer and make the desired connections. She not only could connect one with another Archer party line, but with Palmer and Chapman as well. There was a time when my mother paid twenty-five cents a month for flat rates to Grand Island. One had to go through Archer and Chapman switchboards to connect with Grand Island.

Mrs. Lehr kept people well informed on important events. She would ring five rings to summon everyone to the phone. She would announce everything from funerals to carloads of peaches on the railroad tracks. I remember when I was a child, she once summoned her subscribers to the phone to give them the news that World War I was over--that the Armistice had been signed.

The Archer phone was known as the Independent Phone. Mrs. Lehr's office not only had an Independent switchboard, but it had a Northwestern Bell. She would connect the Archer Independent with Central City's Northwestern Bell for a long distance charge.

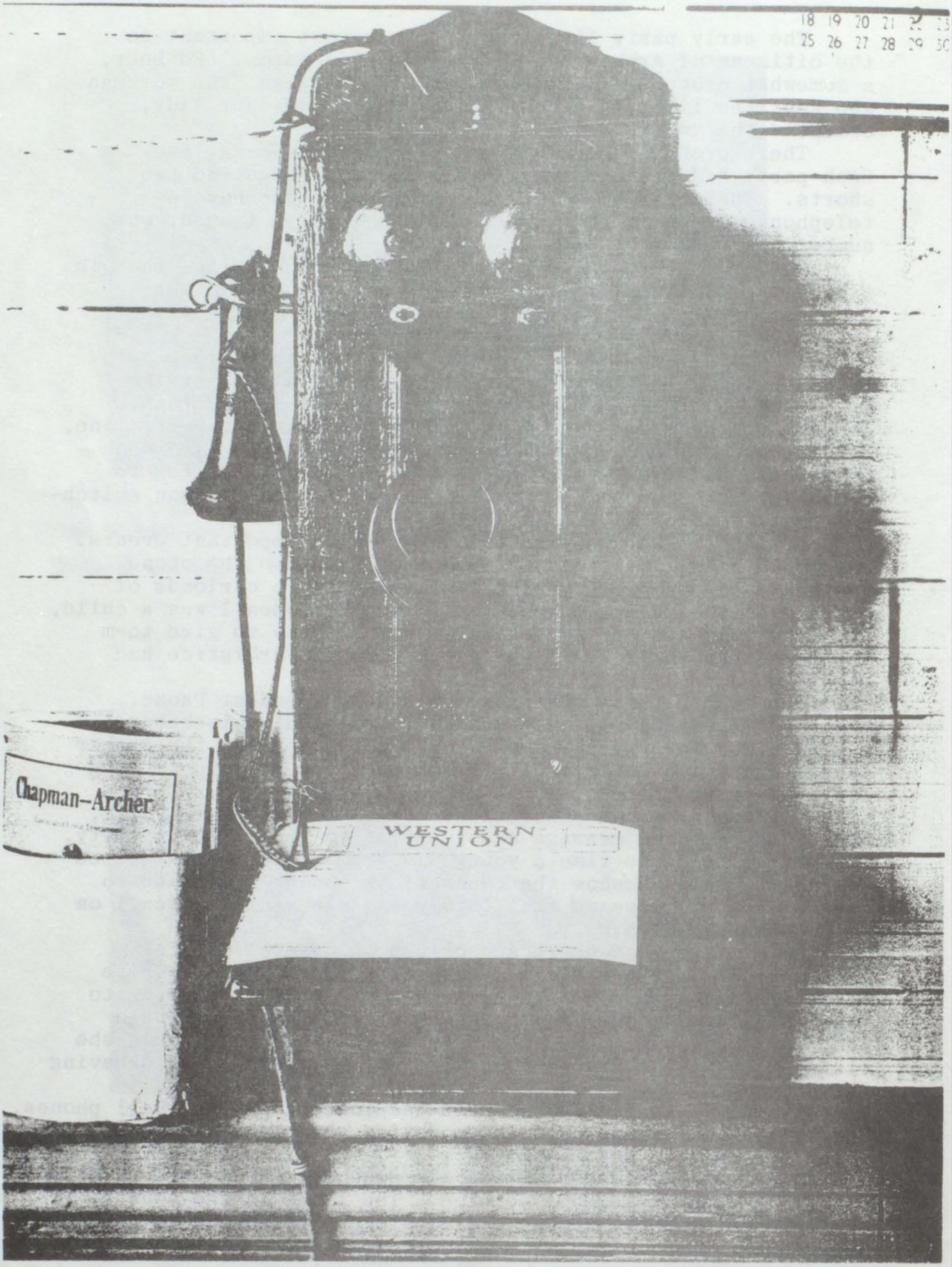
If long distance connections were not working too well, she would take the message and relay it to the intended party. I remember that one time a young man from Silver Creek wanted to talk to me. Somehow the connections couldn't be made so she relayed the message that this young man wanted to call on me on Saturday evening.

Some of the neighbors subscribed to Central City's Northwestern Bell instead of the Archer Independent. Quite often if one of them wanted to talk to an Archer party, or to take advantage of our flat rates to Grand Island, he would drop in to use our phone. My Mother said that one reason she liked to be on the Independent line was that she enjoyed having the neighbors come in to use it.

The Rawlings family had both the Independent and Bell phones. The Rawlingses were always accomodating when we asked them to relay messages to Central City.

Gone is the old party line and gone are the days when storms interfered with telephone service. The lines in the country are buried underground. People dial instead of cranking up the phone and rubbering is no longer a favorite pastime.

--by Helen Boelts




Lifted from Wright Morris's GOD'S COUNTRY AND MY PEOPLE.

# MIDWIFERY

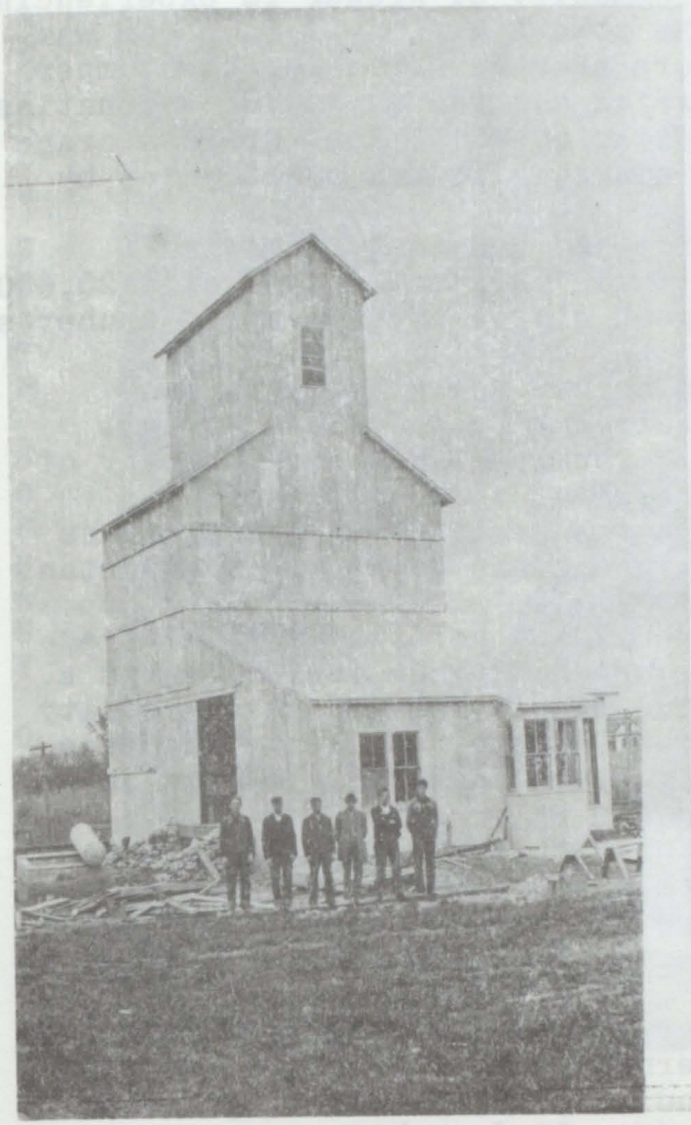
A bit of local history at this point may be of interest to some of the readers. Mrs. Carl Schleuter was a midwife who with her husband lived on a homestead one mile west and one-half mile south of where Archer now stands. Those were the years when big families were in vogue and Mrs. Schleuter's services were in strong demand . She delivered practically all of the babies born in a considerable area adjacent to her home and handled some difficult cases successfully. Infant mortality then was much greater than now. I do not recall an instance where the mother failed to survive. There were no nurses of course but she usually had the assistance of some neighbor woman who would remain for a few days in the home to care for the mother and child. Mrs. Schleuter's fee was five dollars which seems small in comparison to what doctors get now but in a community where letters could not be mailed for lack of postage, it was enough. They prospered and after a number of years they moved to Grand Island where Mrs. Schleuter enjoyed an enormous practice. It has been reported that she delivered 2000 babies in that city.

Fred A. Marsh, "According to my Tell"
September 28, 1961

Mrs. Carl Schleuter was a very popular woman in her official capacity as a midwife. Some of those whom she ushered into this world are still living in the Archer neighborhood. Those were days of large families. Sometimes there were 10 to 14 children in one family. She was at our house when I was born. Family tradition has it that I came on a bright blue October day and declared my intention to become a member of the Mueller family. One of my father's characteristics was not to get in a hurry. When he went to summon Mrs. Schleuter he neglected to urge old Bill and Julia to their utmost speed along the trail across the prairie. When they arrived at home, Mrs. Schleuter found that I had already

established residence as an individual citizen of Merrick County and had started on a long life's journey.

John F. Mueller
Central City Republican Nonpareil
August 1955



Original Archer elevator under construction.

Remodeled structure 1976.

# ARCHER EXPERIENCING BIG BUILDING BOOM

Grand Island Independent
July 13, 1959

The small Merrick County community of Archer is experiencing the biggest building boom in the town's history. The boom was brought about by the need of more storage space for the bumper crops which are produced in Merrick and the surrounding counties.

Work was completed last Friday on the latest grain storage building under one roof in the county. It was constructed by the Archer Grain Company.

The building is 70 feet wide and 300 feet long with a capacity of 400,000 bushels. It was built at a cost of $120,000. This is believed to be the largest single investment in Archer's history.

The grain company is owned by six Merrick County men: Leland Wegner, Hubert Boelts, Warren McBride, Don McHargue, Walter McHargue and Don Reimer. The S. E. Heinzman Company of Grand Island was the firm in charge of the construction.

Walter McHargue will manage the grain company operations which also includes an elevator and grain dryer. His assistant manager will be Norvin Johannes.

"We have tried to erect a building here which will be a credit to the community," McHargue said. "We feel there is a need for such a building to serve the farmers in this vicinity and Archer had the ideal location. There was plenty of space along the railroad right-of-way which means we will have an efficient working operation."

The building, constructed of metal, is equipped with a series of 18 inch aeration ducts to permit air to circulate through the stored grain. There are also a series of hot spot detectors to warn the operators if the grain becomes heated in any part of the building.

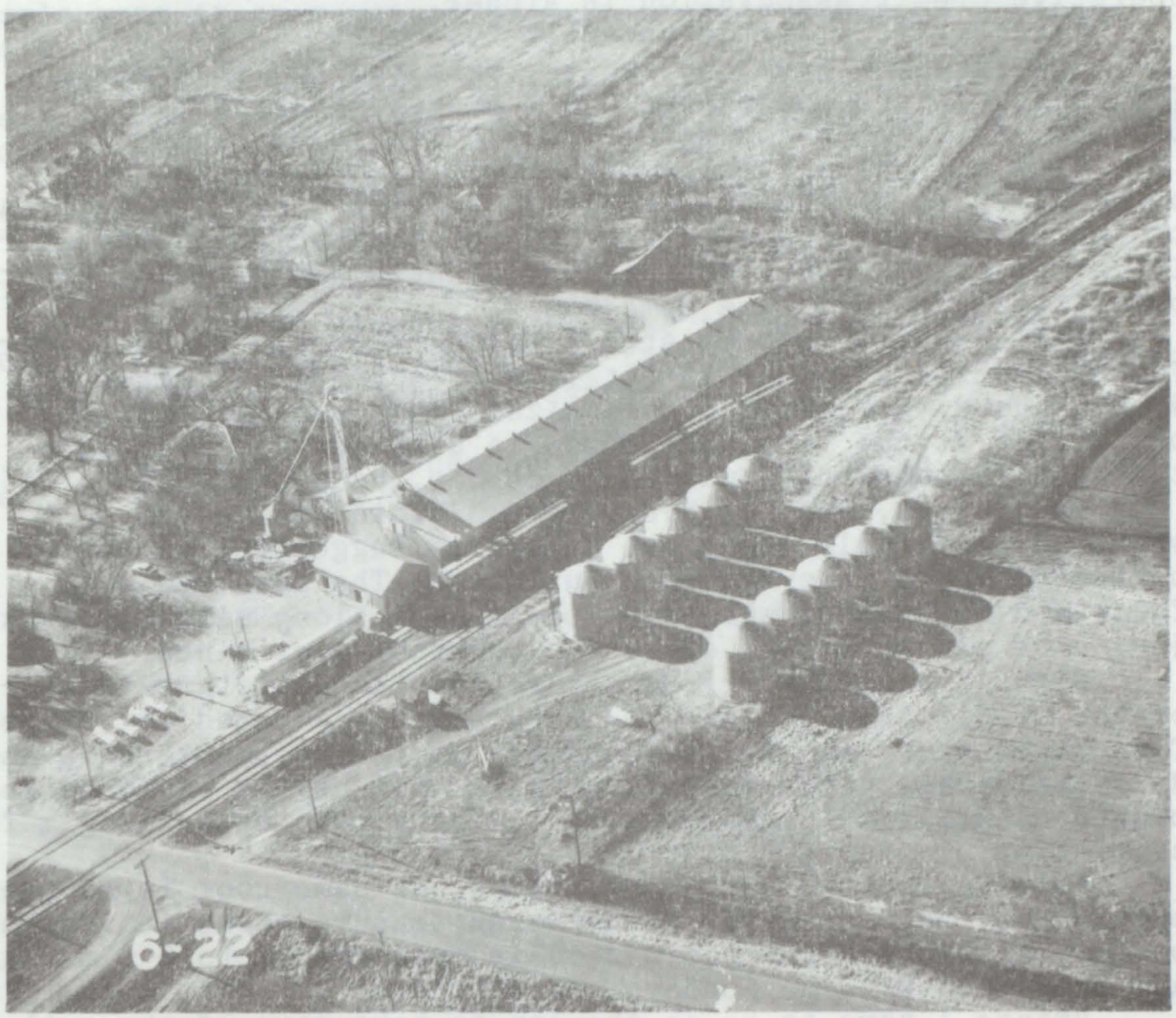
While storage is the primary concern of the grain company, it is also equipped with a modern elevator and grain dryer. The elevator equipment will handle 3,000 bushels of grain an hour. The leg over the elevator is 80 feet high.

Work on the building was started about a month and a half ago. It was completed Friday and the building was turned over to the owners at that time. They announced they were ready to accept grain immediately.

This is the second large grain setup erected in the village. The first, located along the right-of-way east of town, was erected by the Dinsdale brothers of Palmer. They built 12 circular bins, each with a capacity of 13,000 bushels. This means the Dinsdales will be able to store 156,000 bushels of grain in their bins.

Following photo: Archer Grain Company in 1964

ARCHER GRAIN COMPANY OPENS 1964



# BANKER, POSTMASTER ONE AND SAME AT ARCHER

Grand Island Independent
November 24, 1961

If you are looking for a letter or wish to mail one, or if you are looking for some cash, the place to go is the Co-operative Credit Association in Archer.

"Isn't that a little unusual?" you ask.

The answer is yes, but so is the situation at Archer. The banker is the postmaster and the postmaster is the banker. Still more confusing? Don't let it be.

It's all quite simple. The building housing the Co-operative also houses the Archer postoffice. And the secretary-treasurer of the financial institution is also the postmaster. It is one of the few places in the country where a bank and the postoffice are under the same roof.

The situation has existed in Archer for the past 16 years. The dual-purpose setup was put into effect shortly after W. P. Hansen (now retired) organized the co-operative. The postoffice at the time was housed in a grocery store. When the store closed there was no place for the postoffice to go.

Mr. Hansen, who believed the two businesses could be operated profitably under the same roof suggested the post-office be moved into the bank building. The idea met with favor and Mr. Hansen was named postmaster along with his banking job. The two have been operating together ever since.

Eight years ago, Mr. Hansen retired as secretary-treasurer of the Credit Association. W. W. McBride was named to the post. Then three years ago Mr. Hansen gave up the postmastership and Mr. McBride was named to that office. Now he may be found one minute handling a large deposit, making a loan or selling a four cent stamp.

"Having the two businesses under the same roof is an ideal setup." Mr. McBride said. "The worst feature about it are the postoffice hours. The postoffice is open from 7 to 5 p.m. daily and from 7 to 9:30 on Sundays and holidays.

"Since I have to be on the job to take care of the mail I observe the same banking hours. It's surprising how much business we do on Sundays and holidays in between selling stamps and delivering mail."

The postoffice has 27 boxes and one rural carrier, Lyle Nedrig, who handles the single rural route with 79 patrons. Mail is delivered and picked up twice a day, at 7 a.m. and again at 4:30 p.m.

There are 37 Co-Operative Credit Associations in the state and the Archer branch is sixth from the top of the list.

Mr. McBride says the Co-Op has accounts with people in many large cities in the state and some who have moved to adjoining states.

During the past year the Co-Op lost only half a customer, if such a thing is possible. The customer in question did most of his business in Central City so split his account, leaving half of it in Archer and the other half in Central City.

This is the 26th year the Archer firm has operated a financial institution. During that time the deposits and assets have grown each year. Today the Co-Op is large enough to form

a bank but the majority of the customers do not want to see the Co-Op go out of business.

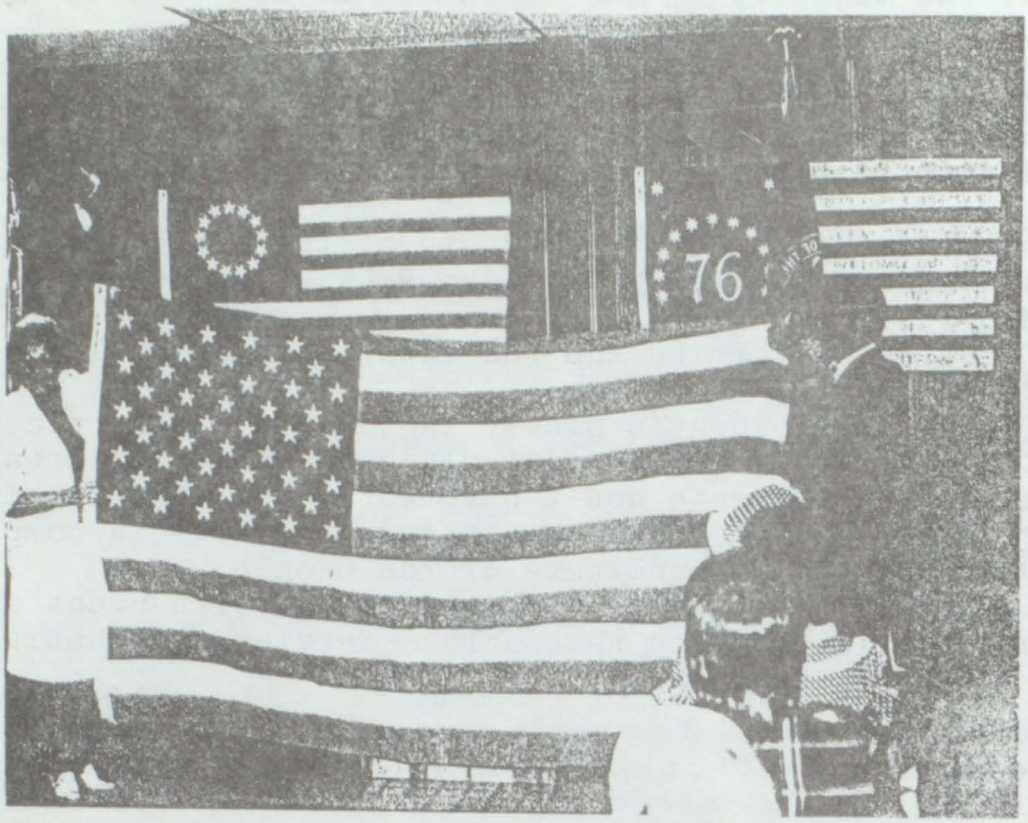
"We seldom lose a customer," Mr. McBride said. "Once a patron starts doing business here he seldom leaves. Becoming a bank would make things much easier for me but so long as the people want it to remain I presume we will continue on that basis."

Members of the board of directors of the credit association are Irvin Blauhorn, Warren Marsh, Art Schwartz, Dwaine Van Pelt and Mr. McBride.

Mr. McBride is married and the father of two children, Kelly and Patrick.

While the small town is slowly fading out of the picture, Mr. McBride says it is a wonderful place to raise children. He pointed out the parents don't have to wonder where their youngsters are. One of the major things favorable in comparing it with Omaha is the friendliness of the people.

Assistant in the Credit Association is Evelyn Bruns and Mr. Hansen, the latter when necessary. Serving as substitute clerk is Mrs. Francis Shirley.




Archer receiving an official Bicentennial Community flag and an American Flag flown over the nation's capital presented by Congresswoman Virginia Smith. The program included songs by Archer Elementary students, Mrs. Verna Zmek, a quartet of Lislynn Ferris, Joel Ferris, Marion Marsh and Warren Marsh. Accompaniest was Mrs. Marge Stander. Presentation of Colors was by Dan Van Pelt, Bill Foesek and Bobby Luebbe.

CHRIS FRANKS

Owner of Franks hotel,
general handyman, and well
known checker player.

# ARCHER IS ALIVE

Fast moving cars, improved highways, and progress in general, have been hard on the early day prosperous small towns and villages.

Archer, a one time booming village, is not what it used to be. It maintains, however, a never dying spirit. It has four active businesses. They are Hubka's Garage, Archer Oil Company, the very prosperous Archer Grain Company, and the financially sound Archer Co-op Credit Union.

The surrounding community consists of many acres of high yielding cornfields watered by pump irrigation. Nestled among the cornfields are happy family homes. Some of these home sites have cattle feeding lots and hog raising facilities.

Three enterprising rural Archer people raise exotic animals. Penny Fattig has markets in New York City for her pet business. She breeds ans sells Maltese dogs and Himalayan cats for the pet market. Jim Schank also deals with New York City merchants. He has a mink farm on Prairie Creek and raises minks for fur dealers in the big city. Cecil Rawlings raises llamas but confines his animal sales to Nebraska. He shows his llams in Omaha and occasionally sells some of the llama offspring.

The Archer Community Center is a nucleus for social gatherings, political meetings, and family get-togethers. It was built with insurance money receoved for the fire destrpyed Methodist Church. The park which occupies the old Archer schoolgrounds is a fine place for picnics and a wonderful playground for children.

We believe that Archer is here to stay!

# HISTORY OF FAIRVIEW AND ARCHER CHURCHES

1872-1904

BY MRS. CARRIE YARMON

FITCH BROS., PRINTERS
Central City, Nebraska

## Our Apology

On Sunday, July 31, 1904, Historical Meetings were held at Fairview and Archer churches. These were to commemorate the Semi-Centennial of Methodism in Nebraska, and also to gather money to establish a fund for the benefit of the superannuated ministers of this Conference.

The history of these two churches, which is almost identical, was read and discussed. Pleasant reminiscences of the early struggles of the church were brought to mind by some of the older settlers present. A good collection was taken.

It has been deemed advisable to place this history, which has been the outgrowth of these meetings, before the people in a permanent form. Much credit is due Mr. W. H Crites, Mr. J. B. Templin and Rev. W. H. Underwood for their assistance, without which the facts herein could not have been obtained.

THE WRITER.



## Fairview Church

Doctor Talmage tells us in one of his famous lectures:—"The prettiest color for the sky is blue, and the prettiest color for the grass is green." The old settlers will tell you that thirty years ago, as far as the eye could reach, these two objects were about all that could be seen. No church spire, pointing the weary traveler heavenward, with peaceful, white walls beneath, mingling with the blue and the green and telling of purity, hope and rest, could be found in all this vast plain. Many sod houses, a very few frame buildings, and a small grove now and then, were the only things that came to view.

Horses were very scarce, and oxen in great demand. A buggy of any kind was rarely seen. This being the case, people living any distance from Central City were put to great inconvenience whenever they wished to attend religious services. The great wish of every Christian heart was to have a nearer place of worship.

In the winter of '72 and '73 the first church organization was established at the Crites schoolhouse by Rev. Fairchilds. This school is No. 26.

A regular appointment was made and a Sabbath school organized. D. J. Lehr was class leader, and W. H. Crites superintendent of Sabbath school. A very nice class was formed, and the school was very successful. The first quarterly meeting was held in 1873 by Rev. White, P. E., who, aided by the regular pastor, Rev. Donaldson, adminstered the sacrament.

About the year 1876 Mr. Charles Jewell conceived the idea of holding a prayer meeting at Burk school-house. He sent word far and near for the people to meet on a specified evening. A goodly number were present. I wish I knew every one, but, as no record was kept, I can give the names of only a few:—Charles Jewell, Thomas Willeman, Albert Deselm, George Clark and William Clark. An enthusiastic and altogether satisfactory meeting was held.

Sabbath school was organized at Burk soon after, with Mr. Jewell as superintendent; also one at the Gardner school-house, with W. H. Crites as superintendent, and one at Bethel, now known as the Baker school-house, also with Mr. Crites as superintendent. An appointment was established at these three places a few years later, and the one at the Crites school-house was discontinued. Rev.



Donaldson was first in charge, Rev. Dressler second, Rev. Marsh third. Mr. Crites was class leader for a number of years.

Nearly all of these worthy members are still living, and are still to be found faithful workers for the Master. Revs. Dressler and Donaldson lived on their own farms, and from there drove many miles to fill their appointments, at times encountering blizzards, prairie fires and other inconveniences,—doing the work of the farm for a living, as the preacher's salary was very small. All glory and reverence to those early pioneers. May they have a triumphal entrance into the presence of the Master for the work done here among us.

Rev. Dressler is now at Payette, Idaho.

Rev. Pearson, pastor at Central City, filled these appointments later on, probably in 1880. Rev. Hildebrand was in charge for a short time also. The first quarterly meeting was held at Burk schoolhouse by Rev. T. B. Lemon. In 1881 Rev. William Esplin was sent to the charge. He is spoken of as a jolly, whole-souled Scotchman, and very energetic in church work. He is now married for the second time and preaching in Omaha.

In the summer of 1882 the first union meeting of these three societies was held at Mr. Crites' res-

idence, now owned by Mr. Hummel. The purpose of this meeting was to make arrangements to build a church, and decide upon a location which would be most convenient for all. I hope you will pardon me if I fail to mention all who were present at this meeting. It has been impossible to get the names of all, but among them were: Rev. Esplin, W. H. Crites, Charles Jewell, C. D. Chapman, Thomas Willeman, George Ferris, William Johnston, William Clark, George Clark, Albert Deselm and Amasa Insko.

The idea in many minds was to build the church where it now stands, but C. D. Chapman and others from Bethel wanted it on Bartlett's corner, one mile east of Archer. A compromise was effected which placed it on Fauver's corner, now owned by ~~Fred Boelts~~. *Sufficient money was pledged that evening to warrant making arrangements to build the church. A committee was appointed to solicit subscriptions. Among them were Messrs. Crites, Chapman, Ferris, Deselm, Jewell and others. Other meetings were held after this to complete the arrangements.

In the early spring of 1883 contract was let to James Stephen, of Central City, and L. N. Boyd was chief mechanic. Lumber, stone, etc., was

*Now owned by Esther and Hubert Boelts



hauled to the grounds by volunteers. These good people saw their long deferred hopes at last about to be realized. They were to have a fitting monument to their Christian fidelity.

Rev. Wesley Wilson was sent here by the Missionary Society in the fall of 1883. The church was built principally after he came, and under his supervision brought to a successful completion. A supper was given at the church before the dedication. A large crowd was present and a goodly sum taken in to be applied on the church debt.

On Sunday, March 16, 1884, the church was dedicated by Rev. T. B. Lemon, assisted by Presiding Elder P. C. Johnson, of Grand Island. Mrs. Overholt presided at the organ. At the close of the sermon five hundred and twenty-five dollars were raised. The cost of the church was eighteen hundred dollars.

The name Fairview was given to the church by Mr. Chapman. Mr. J. B. Templin was superintendent of Sabbath school. The first baptism was administered by Rev. Welcome Smith, of Grand Island, on the evening of dedication day. One of the recipients was Charlie Wilson, a son of the pastor; the other was a daughter of C. D. Chapman.

Rev. Wilson, who played so important a part in building the church and placing its members in a permanent organization, is still remembered with love and reverence by many in this congregation to-day. Although in poor health he remained in the pulpit as long as he was able to get there. The following obituary notice, written by Rev. J. W. Shenk, will give a better account of his life and death than I am able to:

Rev. Wesley Wilson, of North Nebraska Conference, was born in Jacksonville, Illinois, November 17, 1854, and died April 2 near Central City, Nebraska. When about ten years of age he was converted and joined the M. E. Church, and lived a consistent Christian life. At the age of thirteen he was attacked with spinal disease and was confined to his bed for four years. When about fourteen he became dissatisfied with his Christian experience and sought and obtained entire consecration to God, and, having laid his all upon the altar, he kept it there until the end of life. Though he was a constant sufferer through life he was never known to murmur, but submitted himself patiently to the will of God.

On being raised from his bed of affliction, though in a crippled condition, he felt that he was called to preach the Gospel, and on March 15, 1879, he was licensed to preach by the Jacksonville Circuit Quarterly Conference. On October 3, 1880, he was married to Miss Julia A. Russell. In 1881 he came to Nebraska in answer to a call for missionaries by Rev. T. B. Lemon, Superin-



tendent of West Nebraska Missions. He was sent to Ord as a supply until Conference, which convened September 19. He was then admitted into the Conference on trial and ordained deacon, under the missionary rule. He was returned to Ord, where by untiring efforts he succeeded in building the first M. E. Church in Valley County. The next year he was sent to Loup City, where, during the year, he succeeded in raising funds for a church. The next year he was sent to Chapman circuit, where during the year a church was erected. At Conference he was returned for another year, but he had labored beyond his strength, and before the close of the year he broke down. He was about to resign the charge, but, at the request of the Presiding Elder, he remained preacher in charge until Conference, employing two local preachers to help him.

From this time his strength failed, and, though he suffered greatly, he bore all in meekness. His end was peace, and, though at the last he spoke with great difficulty and only in broken sentences, yet his friends heard him say: "Meet me in Heaven," "It is all right with me," "He is taking me through the gates to the New Jerusalem," "I am washed in the blood of the Lamb," and so forth.

Brother Wilson was a man of fine spirit, and of more than ordinary intellect. At the request of his parents the text selected for his funeral was: "Mark the perfect man and behold the upright, for the end of that man is peace."

He leaves a wife and three small children.

His widow is known to us now as Mrs. George Gagle, which name she assumed in later years.

She is still found a faithful worker in the Lord's vineyard.

Others who have always been found with ready hands and willing hearts in the promotion of the work and who deserve special mention are: Mr. and Mrs. Purvis, Mr. and Mrs. Albert Ferris, Mr. and Mrs. F. A. Marsh, Mr. and Mrs. W. C. Gardner and Mrs. Lucy Carns.

The first church picnic was held in 1884, in Manning's grove, now owned by George Moore. A large crowd was present, and a good time was the result,—one never to be forgotten by the oldest inhabitant.

The Fairview Ladies' Aid Society was organized at Grandma Johnston's home in the summer of 1885. The constitution was written by Rev. Wesley Wilson. Mrs. Henry Wilson was the first president, and filled the office, very acceptably, until September, 1890. Mrs. Josiah Dressler was the first secretary.

The first funeral in Fairview Church was that of a daughter of Walter Huff.

Rev. Josiah Fowler came to the charge in 1885 and remained two years. He is now dead, but leaves three sons who are preachers, one having filled the responsible position of pastor at Madison, Nebraska, very acceptably.



Rev. J. L. Porterfield succeeded Rev. Fowler. He was here but one year—1887-8. He was a single man, eccentric, plain in dress, but a good man and one bound to rise in his profession. He is now preaching in Chicago.

Rev. J. B. Leedom was here in 1888-90. He was one of the pioneer preachers, and had been closely associated with the work on the frontier. He endured the privations of the early settler with great courage, and has always been a very popular pastor.

Rev. C. F. Haywood took charge from 1890 to 1891. He has been a member of the State Legislature. He was especially noted for his long sermons. He was a very strong temperance worker and was considered a conscientious Christian man. He is now living at Central City, Nebraska. The first Epworth League was organized during Rev. Haywood's pastorate, on the 25th of August, 1890. Henry Chapman was the first president. It was not a permanent organization.

Rev. E. D. Keyes, of Ohio, was pastor for two months in 1891. At the end of that time he became dissatisfied and returned to Cleveland.

Rev. A. V. Wilson, a brother of Wesley Wilson, was in charge of the work from March till Septem-

ber, 1892. He is now preaching at Elk Creek, Nebraska.

Rev. Thomas Peter Donelly was sent here in 1892, and occupied the field until 1893. He was born in Ireland and raised a Catholic, but left the Catholic Church and embraced the Protestant faith, becoming a very enthusiastic worker in the Methodist Church. He received a great number into the church here. He was considered eccentric, honest, good meaning, and a faithful pastor. He is now dead, and buried at Fremont, Nebraska.

Immediately on taking charge of the work here he began using his influence to have the church moved. The idea was not a new one but had been in contemplation for some time. Some were opposed to moving it at all, some were in favor of moving it to Archer, while still others favored moving it to its present location. After many conferences and meetings of the members it was decided to move it to where it now stands. It seemed a great undertaking to move a building in the month of February such a long distance. It was going to take time, labor and money, and the church already needed some repairs, having been struck by lightning some time before.

However, on the morning the work was to



begin you could see George Ferris, William Johnston, Thomas Willeman, Ed Wilson, W. H. Crites, William Clark and others, with their teams, making their way early to the church grounds. Noble volunteers in the work of our Lord!—not only giving freely their time and labor for that one day, but day after day and week after week did many of them work in cold and snow until the church stood on its foundation, the ceiling lowered, the walls replastered and the room cleaned. No one dissatisfied then,—all rejoicing to get back home where God is an ever-present reality. All honor, I say, to these pure and noble-hearted soldiers of our Lord! Great will be your reward at the last day.

This was in the spring of 1893. The expense of the moving was soon paid. I notice, in looking over the Aid Society's record, that the ladies gave twenty-five dollars at one time to pay this debt; at another time they voted to give all the money on hand to pay for painting the church on the outside. A number of suppers and socials followed in rapid succession, and Mr. Ferris was around with a subscription paper, to which all responded liberally. Some of you will remember the "Hard Times Social" at Mr. Crites' home, now owned by Judge Shelton. The menu consisted of corn bread, baked beans, rye

coffee, hominy, and other delicacies not usually found at such places. Something over twenty dollars was taken in.

The next minister in charge was Rev. John H. Vogt, in 1893-4. He was a good sermonizer, a particularly strong man in the pulpit, and was not afraid to hurt one's feelings by disagreeing with his ideas of religion. He is now located at Pierre, South Dakota.

Rev. J. S. Green came next, from 1894 to 1895. He was full of push and energy, but not a brilliant orator. Many conversions were made during his pastorate. He was noted for his short sermons and "peradventures." He is now at Boone, Nebraska.

Next comes Rev. Molesworth, 1895 to 1896. This good man was a cripple, but you never noticed that affliction in his presence. He was always jovial and good-natured. He was a success in a revival meeting, bringing more probationers into the fold than any other pastor we ever had. Nearly all of these were taken into full connection in the church. He is now in Missouri.

Rev. E. E. Rorick was next, from 1896 to 1898. He was a very devoted man, especially to the missionary cause. In the two years he was here he



succeeded in raising four hundred and five dollars for that purpose. He went from here to Iowa

Next in charge was Rev. R. Frank Shacklock, 1898 to 1901. He was born and educated in England, coming to the States when quite young. During his second year his appointments were changed so that we had services every Sabbath at Fairview. Another minister was placed in charge of the Palmer circuit, thus allowing Brother Shacklock to divide time between Archer and Fairview. Rev. Shacklock had the cause at heart, and tried hard to fill his mission, and to a great degree was a success. He is now located at Genoa, Nebraska.

Rev. R. C. McReynolds took charge from 1901 to 1902. He is now preaching in Oklahoma. The League was re-organized under his supervision, with Lloyd Willeman as president and Ethel Crites as secretary.

Rev. W. H. Underwood, our present pastor, came to us in September, 1902. He was born in Hamilton, Illinois, June 30, 1860. He spent three years at the Illinois Wesleyan University, preparing himself for the ministry. He has been a member of the North Nebraska Conference since 1890. He was in charge of the Springfield circuit for five years, at Papillion one year, and at Arlington two

years, going one year to Cuba as chaplain of the Third Nebraska Volunteer Infantry. On returning to Nebraska he was sent to Mapleville, where he remained three years, coming from that place to Archer.

All departments of the church have been strengthened under his supervision. The young people are his especial care. They will tell you of his encouragement in the League and in the Sabbath school. Through his efforts the Demorest oratorical contests have been revived, and as a result the temperance cause has been fostered, the young people have been trained in oratory, the treasury of the League has been replenished, and four silver and two gold medals have been won. Those receiving silver medals are: Lillie Pease, Emma McClure, Charlotte Moore and Mamie Ferris. Those receiving gold medals are: Lillie Pease and Mamie Ferris.

In all these undertakings Brother Underwood has been aided by his wife, who has nobly given her time and labor that the best results might be attained.

The League, which was organized March 2, 1902, is in a prosperous condition at present with a membership of twenty-nine. Oscar Clark is president and Charley Johnston secretary. The amount in the treasury is about thirty-five dollars.



The Ladies' Aid Society has never been in better working order than at present. Much interest is manifested, not only by members but by many who have never joined our ranks. Mrs. George Ferris is president and Mrs. William Clark secretary. Number of members, eighteen. Amount in treasury, twenty-four dollars and fifty-eight cents, with no indebtedness.

Our Sabbath school has a membership of one hundred and two. Lloyd Willeman is superintendent and Oscar Clark secretary. Names of teachers in charge of classes: Rev. W. H. Underwood, Mrs. William Yarmon, Mrs. George Ferris, Mrs. Ben Mattison, Miss Verdie Willeman and Miss Mamie Ferris. Amount in treasury at present, about two dollars.

The total number of baptisms at Fairview thus far is fifty. The number of members in full connection is fifty two. The minister's salary is six hundred dollars. Fairview pays two hundred and sixty dollars. Present stewards of the church are: George Ferris and William Clark.

The first organ the church owned was a small one, and was sold to Mr. Smith. The present organ

was bought by subscription. Mrs. Raser said: "I'll get the money for that," and she went around with a paper and easily secured it.

NAMES OF MEMBERS

| | |
|---|---|
| Amanda Adams | Ethel Hanna |
| Ella Adams | William Johnston |
| Gustave Bœltz | Mira Johnston |
| John Bœltz | Charles Johnston |
| Henry Bœltz | James Johnston |
| Fred G. Bœltz | Ella Keyes |
| Katharine Bœltz | Mollie Liebert |
| Fred Bœltz | Herman Liebert |
| Margaret Bœltz | Mary Mattison |
| William Clark | Mary Moore |
| Emma Clark | Charlotte Moore |
| Oscar Clark | Lizzie Pierce |
| Alice Clark | William Sampson |
| Stella Clark | Ora Sampson |
| Lucy Carns | Thomas M. Willeman |
| James Carns | Alice Willeman |
| Esther Carns | Miley Willeman |
| Mary A. Darling | Verdie Willeman |
| Joseph Emmert | Roy Willeman |
| George Ferris | Lloyd Willeman |
| Mary Ferris | Ernest Willeman |
| Mamie Ferris | Clarence Williamson |
| Lee Ferris | Archibald L. C. Wolf |
| Julia Gagle | Lulu H. Wolf |
| Effie Gagle | Charles Yarmon |
| Blanche Grimes | Carrie E. Yarmon |



## Archer Church

The town of Archer dates its birth from the time the railroad was extended from Central City northward, in July, 1887. It has never had what you might call a boom, but it has a progressive people who insure it a steady growth and who will make the town a success.

So long as Fairview Church remained on Fauver's corner the people of Archer and vicinity were content to worship there, but in the early '90's the question was raised as to the advisability of dividing the congregation, which culminated, as we have seen, in the church being moved. This left Archer to look elsewhere for a place of worship.

Among those who were prominent in organizing the new church were B. W. Baker and wife, C. D. Chapman and wife, S. N. Gurney and wife, Mrs. E. H. Wickham, Lina Wickham, Mrs. E. W. Lehr, Mrs. George Kull, Mrs. D. W. Overstreet, Mrs. M. H. Rawlings, J. B. Templin and wife and E. Hansen and wife.

The first sermon was preached in Archer Hall by Rev. C. F. Haywood. This hall was built in 1890 by a company. It was used for religious wor-

ship for a number of years. Rev. Molesworth really built up the class and placed it in a permanent organization.

The first superintendent of Sabbath school was B. W. Baker, who filled this office until 1903, when he and his family moved to Townley, Michigan. No man has done more to promote the welfare of the church than has "Burt" Baker, as he was familiarly called. He was raised in Pennsylvania, being a graduate of a prominent college there. He came to Nebraska in an early day, and for many years was closely associated with our educational development. He was principal of Central City schools for some time and county superintendent for several terms. His kind and obliging disposition made every one his friend. He was a talented musician, training the young voices in Archer and vicinity to a high degree of excellence. He and his family are greatly missed in the community.

During Rev. Vogt's pastorate in 1894 a meeting of the trustees was called at the Hall to take steps to build a church. It was a failure. In 1899, while Rev. Shacklock was pastor, a second effort was made, which resulted in a thousand dollars being subscribed. A meeting of the trustees was called, and a building committee, consisting of



J. B. Templin, E. Hansen and E. H. Wickham, was elected. The trustees at this time were J. B. Templin, president of board, E. Hansen, treasurer, B. W. Baker, secretary, D. W. Farnham, S. N. Gurney, M. H. Rawlings, E. H. Wickham, Annettia Wickham and Bertha Gardner.

The Lincoln Land Company offered to donate Lot Four, Block Nineteen, for church grounds, which offer was accepted. The plans and specifications of the building were obtained from the Church Extension Society, which also donated two hundred dollars for building purposes. The church was built under Robert Keeney's supervision. No volunteer work was done except by the pastor and building committee. The building, bell, inside furniture and organ cost two thousand, seven hundred and fifty dollars. The church was entirely free from debt at Conference time in 1901.

The first organist was Mrs. John McKendry; the present organist is Miss Jessie Templin.

The Ladies' Aid Society was organized in 1899. Great credit is due them for their help in liquidating the church debt. They had several socials, fairs, and so forth, and succeeded in raising three hundred dollars. The Aid Society has always been a great benefit, both socially and financially, to the

church. It is at present under the direction of Mrs. W. C. Farnham. Mrs. E. W. Lehr is secretary and Mrs. John Persinger is treasurer. The amount in the treasury is forty dollars.

The church was dedicated February 11, 1900, by Rev. D. W. C. Huntington, D.D., LL.D., president of Nebraska Wesleyan University, and Rev. D. K. Tindall, P. E. Rev. R. Frank Shacklock was pastor at the time, and did much to secure the success of the undertaking.

Rev. S. P. Gurney has been here a number of years, and has done a great deal to encourage the church during its early struggles. He will go in a short time to spend the remainder of his days in Chicago.

The Sabbath school is in a flourishing condition. E. Hanson is superintendent, Jessie Persinger secretary, Phocion Hanson treasurer, Grace Baker librarian, Mrs. Dr. Paxton chorister. Teachers—Rev. W. H. Underwood, E. Hanson, Winnie Farnham, Mrs. Paxton, Mrs. E. W. Lehr, Mamie Rawlings, Sigur Knutson. Amount in treasury, four dollars.

The first Epworth League was organized in 1894 by Rev. J. H. Vogt, with E. R. Farnham president. It was re-organized by Rev. R. C. McReynolds in 1902, with Ward Morse president, Leafy Persinger secretary and Harry Lehr treasurer. It started with a membership of twenty and now has thirty-six. Mamie Rawlings is president, John Kull secretary. Amount in treasury, twelve dollars.



Under Rev. Underwood's supervision the Demorest oratorical contest work has been revived, and six silver medals and one gold medal have been received by the young people. Those receiving silver medals are: Lola Talkington, May Whitmore, Elsie Liebhart, Bessie Farnham, Flossie Liebhart and Zola Samuels. The gold medal was won by May Whitmore.

The Grand Island District Conference met in Archer in May, 1902.

A Woman's Home Missionary Society was organized in 1902, with Mrs. Milton Willett president. This society has succeeded in raising thirty-eight dollars, which has been sent to the Conference Treasurer. Mrs. Underwood is now president.

The parsonage was built in Rev. Donelly's time. The work was done principally by volunteers from Fairview and Archer, the expense of ground and building shared between the two churches. The property is now valued at nine hundred dollars.

The number of baptisms thus far is seventy-nine.

54

Number of church members at present, one hundred and two.

NAMES OF MEMBERS

Bertha Armstrong
Albert Baker
Alice Baker
Tillie Bœltz
Emma Bœltz
Grace Baker
George Baker
Lena Benner
Silvia Brannan
James A. Eckles
Cora B. Eckles
Gerhardt Eckhoff
Christopher Franks
Elizabeth B. Franks
Ethel May Franks
Charles Franks
Stephen M. Gurney
Grace Gurney
Rev. S. P. Gurney
Curtis Farnham
Amelia B. Farnham
D. W. Farnham
Maria L. Farnham
Winifred Farnham
Jennie Bell Farnham
Bessie Farnham
George G. Gardner
Deacon L. Gardner
Mrs. Allison Gurney
Allison Gurney
Frank M. Gillham
Alice Gillham
Emil Hansen
Mattie Hansen
Carl Hansen
Phocion Hansen
Arta Hansen
Veda L. Hansen
T. P. Hogue
M. E. Hogue
Carrie Kull
John Kull
Sigur Knutson
Mary Lehr
Daisy Bussel
Levina Liebert
Elizabeth Liebert
Elsie Liebhart
Mary Mulford
John McKendry
Florence McKendry
Margaret McKendry
Roscoe Mulford
Green R. Mulford



Winifred Morse
Mrs. J. J. Mohr
Harry Morse
Jessie Morse
Elijah McKendry
Mrs. Jane McKendry
Maud Marsh
Mary Marsh
Emma Olson
Maggie Persinger
Edith Persinger
Leafy Persinger
Jessie Persinger
Annie Persinger
Mrs. C. C. Paxton
Milton H. Rawlings
Mamie Rawlings
Samuel M. Rawlings
Frank Sampson
Theodore Swartout
Fannie Swartout
Ray Swartout
Jacob Schmelzer
Annie Schmelzer
Fannie Schmelzer
Gladys Sampson
Jacob B. Templin
Martha Templin
Jessie Templin
Alice J. Templin
Leonard S. Templin
Lola Talkington
Vera Talkington
William Trebelcock
Mrs. Wm. Trebelcock
Mrs. W. H. Underwood
Frances Underwood
Henrietta Underwood
Clinton Underwood
Nellie Whitmore
May Whitmore
Warren C. Whitmore
Lelia Whitmore
Jennie Whitmore
Julia Wilson
Carl Wagner
Carrie Yeik

Rev. Willie St. John Sanders and Rev. George Morey who preached at the Archer Methodist and Fairview Methodist churches. Rev. Sanders and Rev. Morey were natives of England.

AT ARCHER METHODIST CHURCH

Sunday June 17, 1962

Rev. Robert N. Ditterline, Pastor

On the following page is a photograph sent by Richard Gardner of those who were at the Archer Methodist Church on Sunday, June 17, 1962.

The photo was taken just across the street from the Church, and immediately adjacent to the home of Mr. Phoc Hansen. Rev. Robert N. Ditterline was pastor.

Those photographed were as follows:

Sitting Indian Style:

Clarence Powell
Eddie Brink
Rodney Van Pelt
Julie Gilmont
Sherry Gilmont
Janie Gilmont
Leonard Frazier
Mrs. Clause Wagner
Clause Wagner
Warren Marsh
Bill Marsh
Mrs. Warren Marsh
Phocian Hansen
Julius Schmaltz
Roger Stander
Cecil Lee Rawlings

Seated in Chairs:

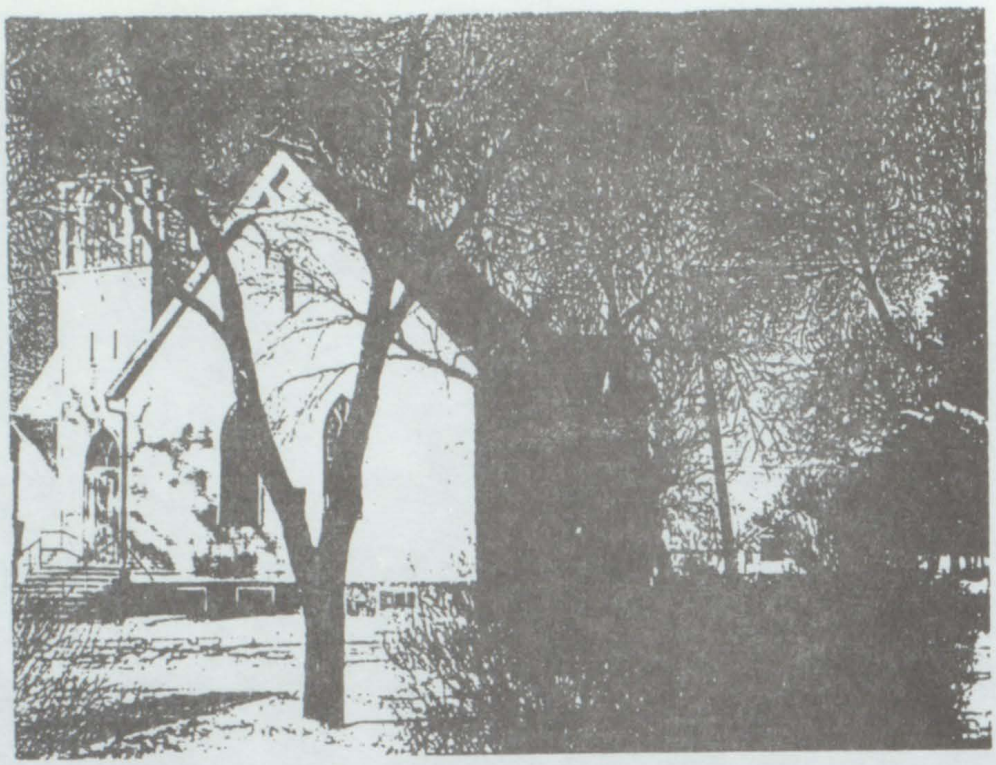
Mrs. Roger Van Pelt and Toby
Mrs. Jack Gilmont
Mrs. Lafe Gilmont
Benjamin (Pat) Gardner
Dennis Gardner
Robert "Rochester" Gardner
Lloyd Gould
Grace Gould
Richard N. Gardner
Fred A. Marsh
Mrs. Jim Johnston
Jim Johnston
J. O. Rawlings
Mrs. J. O. Rawlings
Albert Wegner
Belle Gardner
Richard M. Gardner

Standing:

Roger Van Pelt
Ray Miller
Mrs. Ray Miller
Clifford Goerl
Mrs. Clifford Goerl
Cecil Rawlings
Mrs. Cecil Rawlings
Ervin Blauhorn
Cecil Glause
Mrs. Ervin Blauhorn
Mrs. Ida Glause
Mrs. LeRoy Johnson
Mrs. Cecil Glause
LeRoy Johnson
Mrs. Alvin Brink
David Brink
Mrs. Robert Ditterline and Gary
Mrs. Gerhard Bruns
Rev. Robert Ditterline
Gerhard Burns
Harry Fogland
Agnes Stander
Mrs. Harry Fogland
Mrs. Donald Wegner
Mrs. W. P. Hansen
Mrs. Julius Zamzow
Mrs. Julius Schmaltz
Mrs. Guy Darling
Guy Darling
Earl Stander
Mrs. Jim Stander
Mrs. Earl Stander
Jim Stander
Ronald Fenster
Mrs. Ronald Fenster
Mrs. Leonard Van Pelt
Leonard Van Pelt

Rev. Robert Ditterline, Richard N. Gardner, Gary Ditterline, Dorothy Ditterline. Picture taken in basement of Archer Methodist Church, Sunday, June 17, 1962.

The birthday cake was designed and decorated by Mrs. Earl Stander.



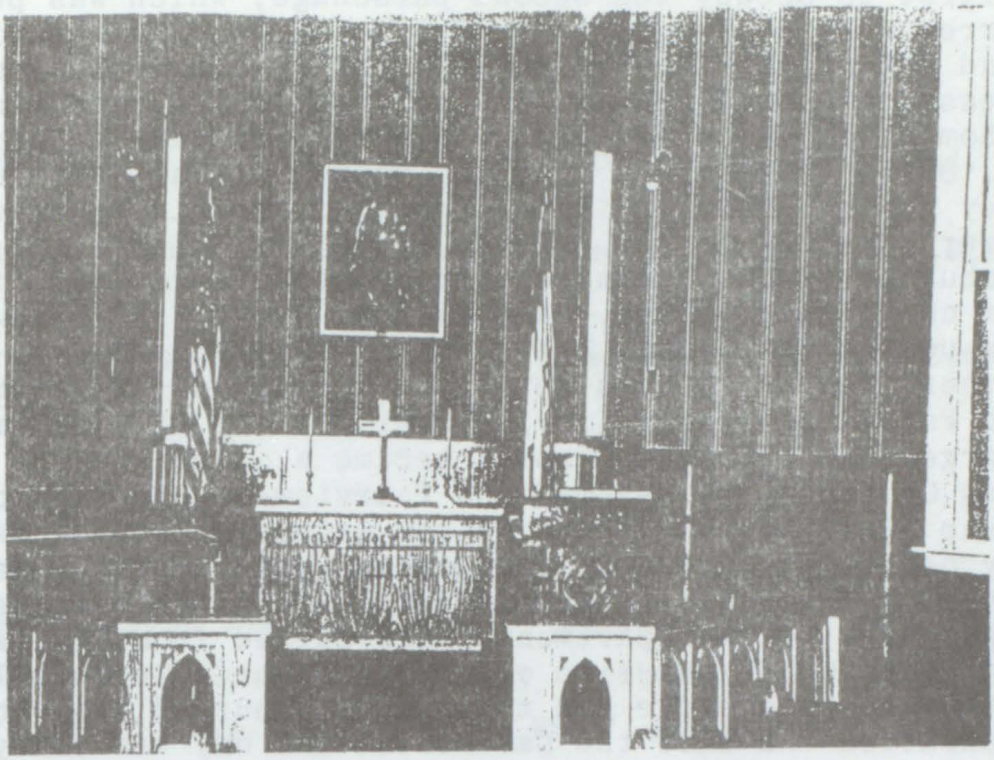
ARCHER UNITED METHODIST CHURCH

Much history took place before the building of the church in Archer. In the 1870's there were many sod houses, a very few frame buildings, a small grove of trees now and then. Horses were very scarce and oxen in great demand. Trees were few and prairie grasses and sky were about all that could be seen for miles. Buggies were rare, and transportation was difficult. Religious services were held at Central City, but the pioneer people found a need for a closer place to worship.

In the winter of 1872 and 1873, the first church organization was established at the Crites' school house by Rev. Fairchilds. This school house was located southwest of Archer, near the Prairie Creek Baptist Cemetery. A regular appointment was made and a Sunday School organized. D. J. Lehr was class leader and W. H. Crites was superintendent of the Sunday School. A nice class was formed and the school was very successful. A regular appointment was made with Rev. Donaldson as pastor.

About the year 1876, Mr. Charles Jewell conceived the idea of holding a prayer meeting at the Burk school house. A satisfactory meeting was held. A Sabbath School was organized at Burk soon after, with Mr. Jewell as superintendent.

Two more Sabbath Schools were organized. One was held at Gardner school house with W. H. Crites as superintendent and another at Bethel west of Archer. A few years later an appointment was established at these three places and the one at the Crites' school house was discontinued. Rev. Donaldson was first in charge, Rev. Dressler second, and Rev. Marsh third. Rev. Dressler and Rev. Donaldson lived on their own farms, and from there drove many miles to fill their appointments. Many times they encountered blizzards, prairie fires, and other inconveni-



Sanctuary - June, 1959

ences. They made most of their living by farming because the pastor's salary was very small.

Rev. Pearson, pastor at Central City, filled these appointments later. The first quarterly meeting was held at the Burke school house by Rev. T. B. Lemon.

In the summer of 1882, the three societies held a union meeting to make arrangements to build a church and to decide upon a favorable location. C. D. Chapman and others from Bethel wanted the church building on Bartlett's corner, one mile east of Archer. Others wanted it where the Fairview church is now located. A compromise was effected which placed it on Fauver's corner, now the Hubert F. Boelts farm. Sufficient money was pledged and plans were made to build a church. On Sunday, March 16, 1884, the church was dedicated by Rev. T. B. Lemon, assisted by residing Elder P. C. Johnson of Grand Island. The cost of the church was $1800.00. The name "Fairveiw" was given to the church by Mr. Cyrus D. Chapman.

Ministers included Rev. Josiah Fowler, Rev. J. L. Porterfield, Rev. J. B. Leedom, Rev. E. D. Keyes, Rev. C. F. Haywood, and Rev. A. V. Wilson from 1885 to 1892.

Rev. Thomas Peter Donelly was sent here in 1892, and occupied the pulpit until 1893. He was born in Ireland and raised a Catholic, but left the Catholic Church and embraced the Protestant faith, becoming a very enthusiastic worker in the Methodist Church. While he was pastor, he began using his influence to have the church moved. The idea was not a new one, but had been considered and discussed for some time. Some members of the congregation were opposed to moving it at all. Some wanted the church building moved to Archer. Others favored moving it to Mead Township. After many meetings of the members, it was decided to move it to where the old Fairview church stood. The church was moved in the

used part of the lumber in building a farm home, later sold to the Donald Frauen family. A house just north of the church was purchased for a parsonage. Rev. and Mrs. A. H. Brink and family were the first to occupy the second parsonage, which was purchased by the Warren McBride family in 1953. Archer had no electricity in 1928 and the stores and the church used gasoline lanterns. A few businesses or homes had Delco Generators or carbide plants, but most homes had kerosene lamps. Electricity came to Archer while Rev. Brink served here, and the church wiring was done by him. Money was very scarce in the thirties and his pay was probably very small.

The church "circuit" changed through the years. At first the circuit or charge was Palmer, Gage Valley, Archer, Fairview. During the pastorate of Rev. Nye O. Bond two circuits were made: Palmer-Archer, which remained until the closing of the Archer church and Fairview-Central City. Later Central City became a one church charge, and Fairview-Chapman became a circuit. The current circuit has Central City-Chapman and Fairview-Archer Zion charges.

On June 5, 1974, the Archer United Methodist Church was completely destroyed by fire. This tragedy saddened the hearts of the entire congregation and community. The fire was observed almost right away; fire departments were called from Central City, Palmer and Chapman but the fire was too furious to stop. The fire started in the steeple and the building burned from the roof to the foundation and into the basement. The day was sunny, and very dry. The fire started about 4:30 in the afternoon and the church was completely down by 6:30 p.m. A heavy rain fell about 9:30 p.m. and relieved tensions about other fires being started overnight. Even after the rain the basement smouldered for several days. About a hundred people came to help and witnessed the fire.

Before the bell tower burned too much a few things were saved. The electric organ, the piano, the pulpit (a memorial to Mr. and Mrs. Martin Scharvin), the communion table (a memorial to Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Frazier), a brass cross and two candle holders (memorial to Buren Wells), two brass vases and collection plates (memorial to Ray Shull), the Memorial Book (memorial to Mr. and Mrs. C. M. Stalker) and a few other articles. Fire above the main door prevented removal of anything else.

# THE PRAIRIE CREEK BAPTIST CHURCH

Located eight miles west of Central City on the Ormsby Road.

Organized January 7, 1883 at the Pemberton Schoolhouse. (District 44)

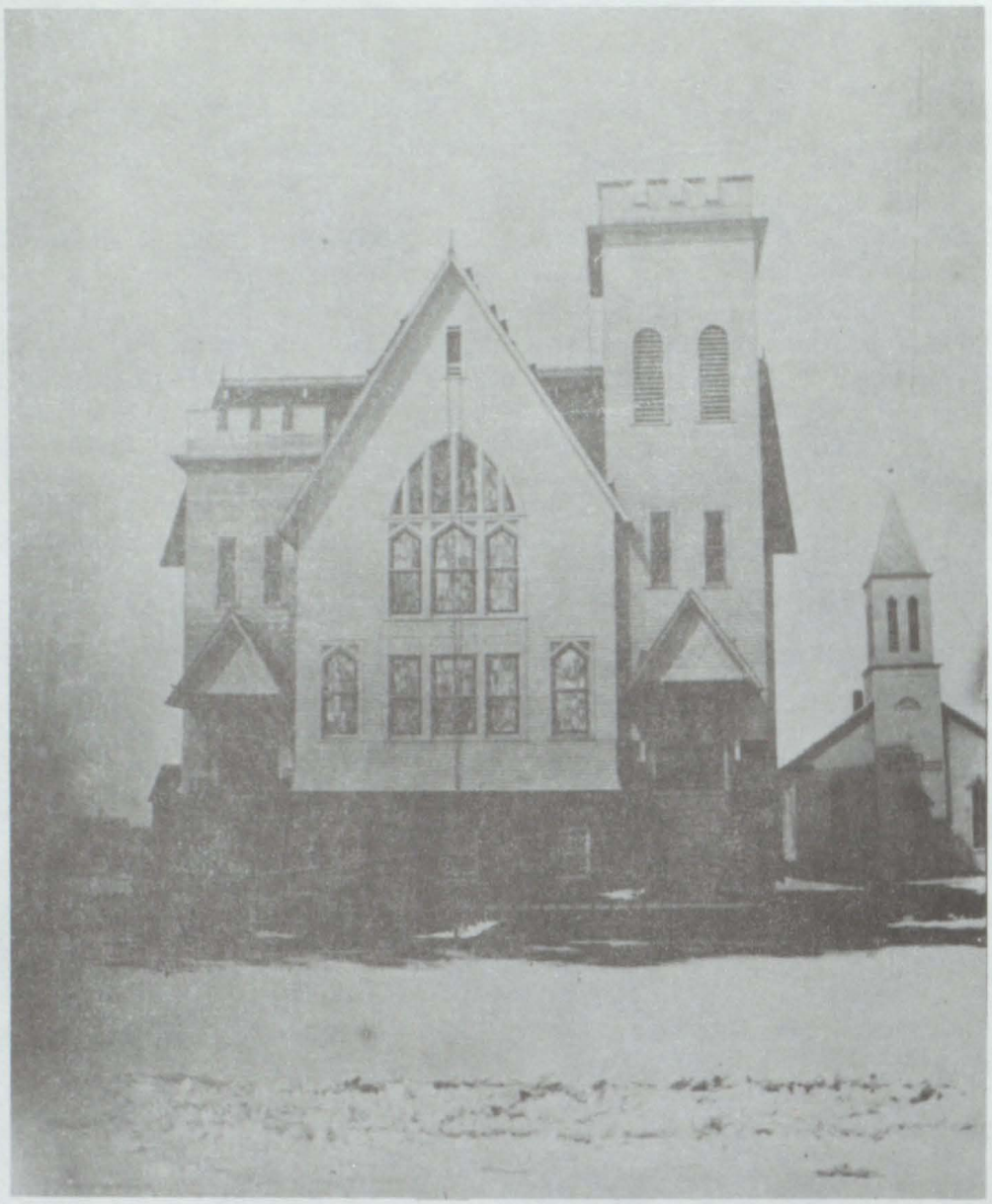
First pastor, Rev. J. E. Ingram; first deacons, John H. Sutton and R.T. Lewis.

Charter members:
Perry M. Sutton, Ella Sutton, Adam J. Harshberger, James E. Fitch, Mrs. James E. Fitch, Francis M. Hirst, Elizabeth Hirst, James A. Sinsel, E. A. Sinsel, B. F. Jones, Mary Jones, Jacob Schmeltzer, Mrs. Jacob Schmeltzer, R. T. Lewis, L. E. Lewis, Wm. F. Sinsel, Fannie A. Sinsel, John H. Sutton, Hannah Sutton, James W. Teagarden, Joel F. Widman, John Newlon, Mrs. John Newlon, F. L. Frazier and Mrs. R. S. Frazier.

This church was discontinued and the church was sold at public auction.

Merrick County's 100th Year.

Because woodpeckers had pecked holes under the church eaves, the Prairie Creek Baptist Church was sometimes called the Woodpecker Church.



ARCHER E. U. B. CHURCH

The work of the Evangelical Church in this community was begun at the request of Mrs. Fredrick Weigert, who wrote to the Iowa Conference for a Missionary to serve the pioneer families in her community. At the Conference Session of the Iowa Conference in 1872 at Grand View, Iowa, Grand Island was taken up as a Mission. Rev. Henry Stellrecht was appointed as the Missionary to be in charge of the Grand Island Mission and Rev. Stellrecht began his service in that same year, preaching in homes and school houses in districts 35 and 46. This community was designated as Schluetters. These folks lived a mile east and 1/2 mile north of where the church was built in 1884. In the year of 1887-1888, the railroad was built through this community and then the church was known as the Archer Church, after the name of the town.

The first roll of members from this community in 1872 contained the following names: Mr. and Mrs. Carl Schluetter and Wm. Wegner. In 1873 the following names were added: Mrs. Wm. Wegner, Mr. and Mrs. William Rudolf, and Mrs. August Retzlaff; a total of seven members. All of these folks came from Wisconsin, having previously emigrated there from Germany. In 1874 the

Albert and Frank Zamzow families came from Wisconsin to join the ranks of the pioneers and they also aligned themselves with the church. Others came directly from Germany and settled in the community and so in time many were added to the church.

The Minister lived at Grand Island and served Grand Island Weigerts and Archer. Preaching services at Archer were held every two weeks and on intervening Sundays, Sunday School and Prayer Meetings were held. Wm. Wegner served as Superintendent of the Sunday School for 38 years and also conducted the prayer meeting. The two school houses serving as meeting places were located a few miles southwest of the present church (Dist. 35) and on the southeast corner of the present Dwaine Wegner farm (Dist. 46).

The members worshiped in these school houses for twelve years. In 1884 the first church was built on land donated by Frank and Minnie Zamzow. Rev. Woelz was the first minister and Rev. Backemeier the presiding Elder.

This congregation had the honor of being the church from which Rev. Herman Wegner started his ministry. He was for many years Secretary of the Annual Conference of Nebraska, and later on Minister of the Colorado Conference, retiring at Loveland, Colorado.

The Cemetery was established in the early eighties and Mrs. Dora Dahl, the mother of Mrs. Muchow, was the first adult buried in the cemetery in 1887, Carl Wegner being the second in 1888. Nearly every one of these early pioneers are now at rest in the cemetery and many of the second and third generations also.

In the year 1884, when Rev. F. Schuelzky was the minister, the Young People's Alliance was held in a large tent in the grove, one mile north and one-half mile east of the church. Rev. Mott, one of the top officials of the church at that time, was principal speaker.

In the year 1898 the Annual Nebraska Conference was held here at the church, Rev. Fisher being the minister at the time and Bishop Bowman presiding at the conference.

In 1900-1901, the Grand Island circuit was divided by adding Central City and Emmanuel to the Archer Circuit. Rev. Stauss was stationed here in 1900 and the parsonage was built by the side of the church. At the Annual Conference in 1908 the Emmanuel Class or Weigert's was separated from the Archer circuit and added to the Grand Island circuit. Central City was later abandoned.

The Archer congregation held a tent meeting in Will Wegner's grove west of Archer in 1916 and many souls were saved. In 1917-1918, while Rev. C. Fuehrer was pastor, the erection of a new church building was considered because the first church was in much need of repair and was not large enough to accomodate the present people. World War I hindered the building project for some time, but finally the church was completed and dedicated on April 25, 1920. The church was a stately four-story structure in Early American Gothic architecture and could be seen for miles. Electricity was installed in the structure in 1940 and in 1949 the church was remodeled by lowering the ceiling. A bathroom and running water were installed in the parsonage.

On May 5, 1957, the 85th Anniversary was observed. Rev. John Wichelt and Rev. Wm. Watkins were there for the occasion. Rev. Oehlerking was pastor at this time and Otto Zamzow presented the history of the church.

In 1974 the church was damaged during a storm and the decision was later made to replace the church building. On June 13, 1976 the new building was dedicated just west of the previous building. The church has been home to the pastors listed below and membership has grown from 3 to over 150.

--Information taken from "Archer E.U.B. Church History" by Otto Zamzow, and church bulletins

## Record of Pastors

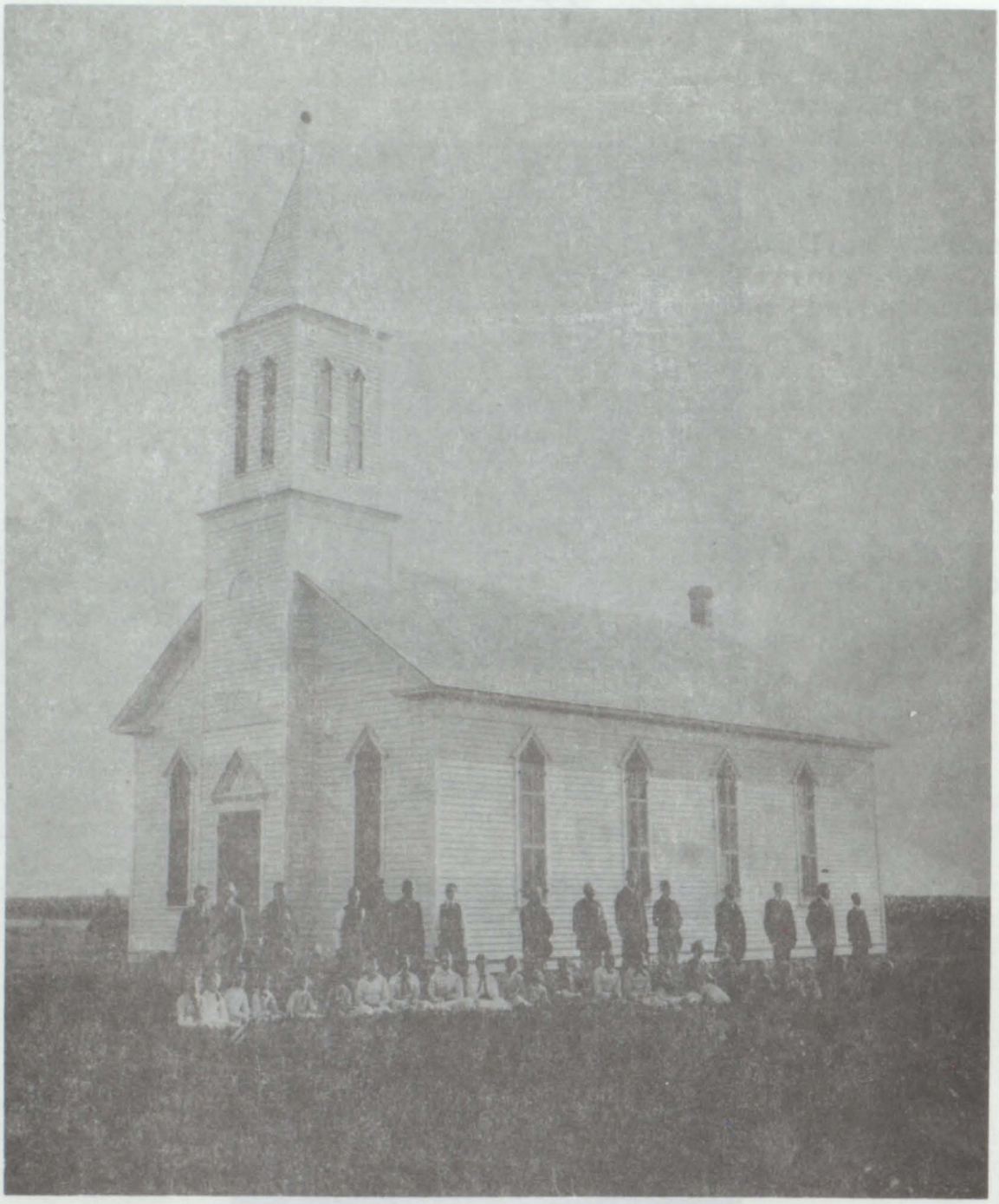
1. H. Stellrecht
2. F. Loehle
3. F. A. Frase
4. J. P. Just
5. Chr. Schmidt
6. F. Schulzky
7. M. Inhelder
8. A. Brauchle
9. Fr. Backemeyer
10. A. Fischer
11. C. Woelz
12. O. Radinsky
13. F. H. Beckmann
14. (Record unclear)
15. F. H. Schulzky
16. A. Fischer
17. C. Fuehrer
18. A. Stauss
19. H. Goetz
20. H. A. Jochens
21. C. C. Wichelt
22. C. Fuehrer
23. C. W. Boelter
24. C. Fuehrer/F. Ebinger (due to death of Rev. Boelter)
25. C. Lewien
26. A. H. Schwab
27. J. C. Weston
28. H. A. Kramer
29. R. M . Reynolds
30. D. S. Bornemeir
31. J. H. Oehlerking
32. Armin Vogt
33. D. Bredthauer
34. Roger Kronholm
35. Russell Mead
36. Charles Mitchell
37. Daniel Gangler
38. Ed Bonneau
39. Earl Higgins

85th ANNIVERSARY

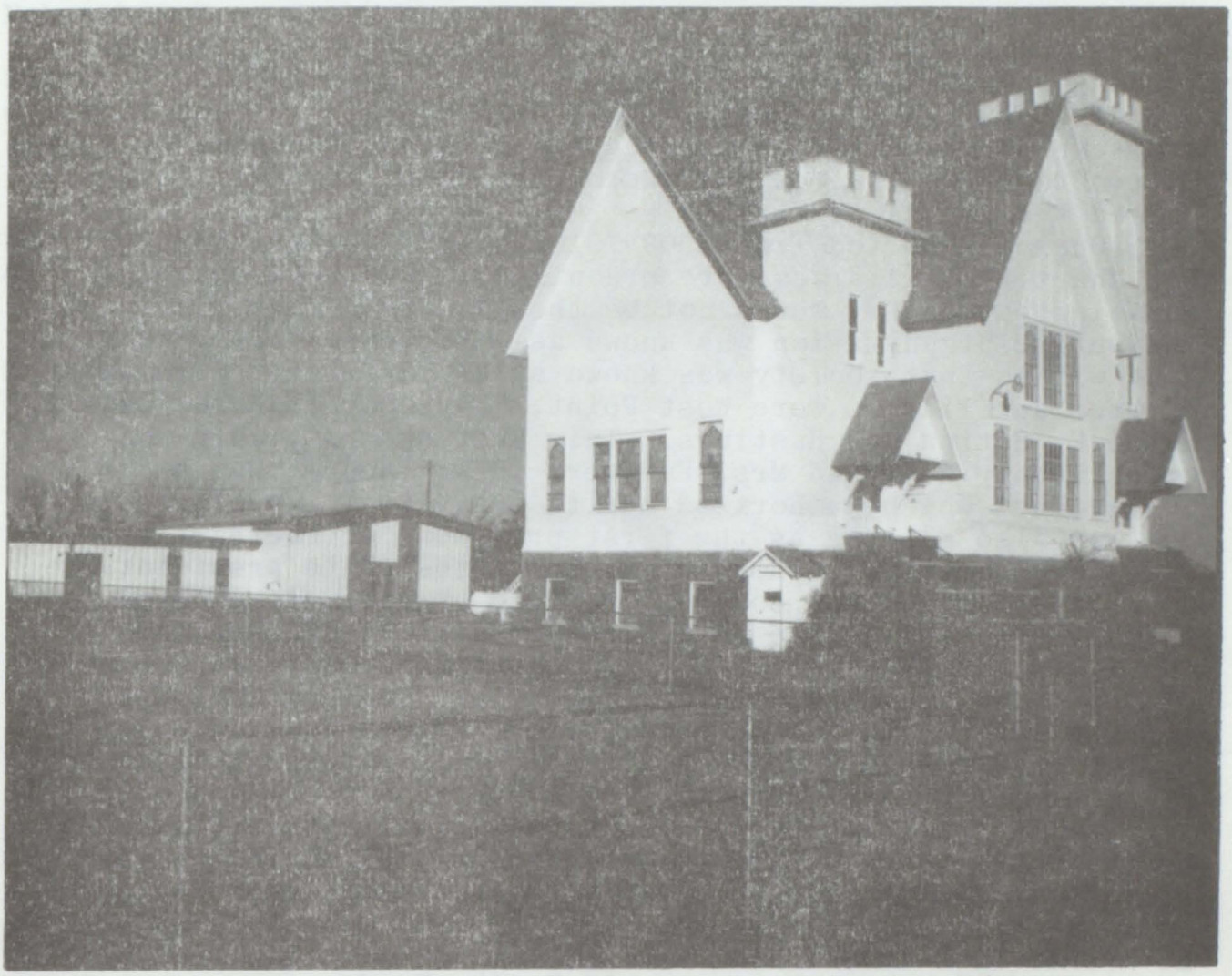
ARCHER ZION EUB CHURCH

REV. OHLERKING

CHURCH CAKE BAKED AND DECORATED BY HULDA SUCK



Original Archer E.U.B. Church



Second E.U.B. Church, built 1919
Present church building, ded. 1976, in background

# ARCHER ZION U. M. W.

When the Evangelical Church had its beginning in the state of Nebraska, there were 2 separate groups--The Nebraska Conference of the Evangelical Association of North America (This was the German speaking group). Archer Zion was a member of this group. The second group was known as The Platte River Conference of the Evangelical Association of North America (This was the English speaking group).

In 1890, this Platte River Group had some difficulties and they separated: the minor group retained the name of Platte River Branch, while the major group assumed the name "The United Evangelical Church."

During a period from 1908-1910 in the Nebraska Branch, six charter auxiliaries were organized. They were called auxiliaries so they would not be thought of as high class. The entire organization was known as a Society. While each unit within that society was known as an auxiliary. The six charter auxiliaries were West Point, Clay Center, Mason City, Murdock, Sutton and Hastings. This Hastings auxiliary was organized by Rev. and Mrs. Fuehrer. Mrs. Fuehrer had a certificate which authorized her to organize new auxiliaries. She was also elected as the first president of the Hastings auxiliary and a few years later became the state president.

No definite date could be found of the origin of the Archer Zion society, so we decided to visit a daughter of Mrs. Fuehrer's, Della Zamzow, who lived in Grand Island. Here we found that definite information. Mrs. Fuehrer's family, the Urweillers, had compiled a Family History Book in which it stated that Sophie had organized a Women's Missionary Society at Archer, February 18, 1911.

Until this time the only other less definite information of the date of the origin we found while visiting Wesleyan University Historical Center in Lincoln. There we found a news clipping apparently sent there by Rev. Kramer, a pastor at Archer from 1936-1941:

> Oct. 4, was a red letter day. The morning session included promotion and Rally Day program. At noon we enjoyed a very fine dinner. At 2:30 the W.M.S. celebrated their 25th anniversary. Three large letters, W.M.S., of purple were on the back of the rostrum, and a three tier cake decorated in the W.M.S. colors was in front of the rostrum. The program was divided 1911, 1926, 1936. The charter members gave a record of their first meeting of 1911, led by Mrs. F.A. Zamzow, a charter member. Mrs. Jacob Ita led the 1926 meeting, at that time there were 49 members. Mrs. Albert Wegner led the 1936 meeting. The Secretary and Treasurer gave the reports, sum total of the past 25 years. The candles on the cake were lighted and Mrs. August Retzlaff, one of the charter members, offered prayer as the candles were burning. At this time the society voted to organize a Y.P.M.C. This Circle was organized Nov. 8 with nine members.

By 1912, this Nebraska Branch (German Speaking) had accepted the English language well enough that permission was given by the General Conference that the Nebraska Branch and the Minor Platte River Branch might allow a merger. This merger became effective in Aug. 5-10 at Elmwood Park in Elmwood, Nebraska.

The first annual convention was held in the City Park at Sutton, August 5-10, 1912. Total number of delegates and officers attending were 32. As the convention was growing larger each year it was deemed advisable to own their own assembly ground, which could be improved to suit their needs.

In 1914 the committee found and recommended a site near Milford. Their recommendation was approved and plans were made to begin improvements immediately. The separate units to use these facilities were: Mens Ministerial Alliance, Young Peoples Alliance, the Sunday School, and the Women's Missionary Society. Following is a brief description of "Riverside Park."

> Riverside Park consisted of seven and a half acres of ground, covered with many beautiful shade trees and blue grass on the banks of the Big Blue River, 17 miles west of Lincoln and 1 mile north of Milford. It was entirely surrounded by a substantially woven wire fence, had 3 wells of abundant pure cold water, which stood the test of gout inspection as to sanitation. Buildings erected to meet the needs of the people were the tabernacle known as "The Hall of Peace," a Junior pavilion, dining hall and store, several dormitories, a speakers cottage, and a number of private cottages. To many Evangelical people "Riverside" meant a "Spiritual Mecca." As these were persons who spent a quiet vacation at Riverside during the summer.

In 1915 children of all ages were a definite part of W.M.S. They were the Cradle Roll, Little Heralds, Mission Band and Young Peoples Alliance. One of the W.M.S. mottos being, "The Children of Today are the Church of Tomorrow." Activities of Archer Zion Society during the following period were gained primarily from personal visits to relatives of the charter members, as they were our only source of information at this time.

Now the Riverside convention was the focal point, the home base where all reports of the struggling societies were given. Here the societies or auxiliaries were given all possible help and encouragement to continue their mission outreach. Mission outreach was stressed in all areas, both foreign and home missions. A foreign missionary home on furlough from China, Japan or India, as well as perhaps a representative from one of the mission schools sponsored by the church, were always the featured speakers. Delegates from each individual auxiliary would then return to their home society with renewed vigor and inspiration to continue their missionary work.

Rallies were celebrated here at Archer following each convention, they told us in the interviews. These were highlights of the year. In the fall rallies all members of the individual society could participate. An all day program was planned with devotions, always a speaker, skits, drama, offering and food. All these were combined to help them forget their past difficulties. Many times some extra produce found its way to Bonness's Store enabling these members to provide an extra sum for their sorely needed missionary offering.

I would like to consider a few reasons why these early pioneers had their many problems. First, inexperience. Women were rarely considered to have the qualifications for jobs in any area of the church's activities. The church was strictly an organization with men as leaders. Women were discriminated against. A minister and his wife would sometimes organize a society, however, after they left the society would fall apart for lack of leadership. Some persons said just leave them alone and they'll soon give up.

There was no back log of information to refer to. Literature for guidance, program planning was not available for many years. These women needed to depend on their own initiatives and resources and these too were often lacking.

Transportation to and from meetings, which were held in the homes at this time, created a problem, as very few women drove cars, and any other mode of travel was not encouraged.

Money was not available for additional church expenses, it was difficult enough to pay the preacher'ssalary and other necessary church expenses, let alone contribute money for Foreign Missions.

From 1917-1920 the General Church launched a "Forward Movement in the Church." The Women's Missionary Societies caught the spirit and applied the challenge to themselves by:

- Organizing new societies
- Membership drives were stressed
- Use of study books was encouraged
- Subscriptions to available Christian Literature such as Missionbate and Messenger were also encouraged
- Observation of the World Day of Prayer
- Banners were given to socities reporting the greatest amount of money collected during a year
- Prayer Vigils and Prayer Groups were organized as prayer was still their greatest source of strength
- To read the scriptures gave them the inspiration to follow in the teachings of Jesus and the Word of God

May 23, 1923, was a happy day for W.M.S. Women, a day they had been looking forward to for a long time and their hopes were realized when the Evangelical Association and the United Evangelical Societies joined forces in one body. Now they would be known as the Evangelical Association. The combined efforts of the two branches would now enable them to accomplish much greater and worthwhile projects.

--Written and submitted by
Lillie Suck

# SCHOOLS

As soon as people felt themselves established on their homesteads, they felt a need to educate their many boys and girls.

The first school to be established in the Archer area was District 14. Districts 23 and 24 followed. Later came District 43 and District 46 (Archer). Before the Archer days there was a Baker School southwest of Archer's site.

Districts 35 and 44 were several miles south and west of Archer.

The schools generally speaking, were named for the family living nearest to the school. District 14 was the Durst School named for a Durst family. District 23 was the Gardner School named for the George Gardner family. (No relation to Percy Gardner.) District 24 was the Comstock School named for the David Comstock family. District 44 was the Pemberton School named for the Ambrose C. Pemberton family. District 43, however, had a unique name--Stovepoker. It was named for an occasion when it was necessary to use a stovepoker to restore law and order.

All of these schools produced citizens who were a credit to Midland Township and the Archer Community.

# SCHOOL DISTRICT 14

On December 2, 1871, a meeting was held at the home of R. T. Parkhurst to organize District 14. Officers elected were R. T. Parkhurst, Moderator; D. T. Roat, Director; and John Keys, Treasurer.

During April, 1972, the first census was taken with these names: Reynolds, Ray, Parkhurst, Clark, and Porter. Nineteen children attended the first year. Lucy E. Clark, the first teacher, was paid $96.00 for the year.

The school was located on the southwest corner of 14-14-7. The school had a deed to the land. It was sold at auction. V. C. Riggs bought the land and Clause Wagner the schoolhouse. He moved it one mile south and made it into a home. In July 1953, the school merged with District 23, two miles to the north. In September 1968 District 23 was closed and both Districts 14 and 23 were taken into the Central City Schools. Children were transported to their classes by bus.

The teacher did the janitor work and carried in coal and cobs. The stove in the middle of one small room sometimes was hot enough to melt the crayons in the nearby desks while water in the water pail in front of the room had ice. Gertrude Farrell and Gertrude Fullerton each taught several years in the district.

One Christmas there was a pretty lighted Christmas tree with real candles. Santa (Leonard Rawlings, an eighth grader) reached too close to a burning candle and caught the cotton on his sleeve on fire. The result was badly burned hands.

Nita Rawlings Watkins.

# GARDNER SCHOOL

Gardner School, District 23, five miles northeast of Archer was named for the George Gardner family. A number of prominent citizens earned their early education there. A large percent of its graduates from 1920 on earned bachelor's degrees and a few went on to get their masters. An early graduate, Mr. F. A. Marsh, was county superintendent of schools shortly after 1900. He served on the Board of Regents of the University of Nebraska in the thirties. Two of its graduates, Wayne Marsh and Dale Nitzel, are medical doctors. Donald F. Sampson became a lawyer. Orville and Rodney Johnston became chemical engineers. Leslie Johnston has worked as a Research and Statistic Program Supervisor in the Nebraska State Labor Department. Irene Boelts managed the Officers Mess in London during World War II and achieved the rank of Captain. Norman Boelts taught business administration at Alaska Methodist University and the University of Alaska. The schoolteachers who graduated from this school are too numerous to mention. The young men who chose to remain on the farm have done an outstanding job in the field of agriculture.

In addition to the aforementioned Gardner graduates of note, three former students, Lee Ferris, Deacon L. Gardner, and Fred A. Marsh became unusual local journalists. Their field of reporting was Midland Township and its trading center, Archer.

Lee Ferris wrote with a simple homespun humor and stuck to facts. To Deac, Archer was a stage for comedy. No one read his Archer items without laughing unless it was the person he was ridiculing. He especially liked to cast the community's eccentric bachelors in the role of buffoon. To Mr. Marsh who was something of a philosopher, a student of literature and a patriotic citizen, the people of the Archer and Fairview communities were hard working God-fearing people.

The three have left in the Central City papers pictures of the comical and serious phases of life in a rural Nebraska farming center.

Although the Gardner Schoolhouse is about to become a dwelling home, it and the earlier schoolhouse can be proud of the exceptional American citizens it has produced.

**Elizabeth Marsh was another outstanding graduate of Gardner School. She was the executive secretary of the American Friends Service Committee.**

These are some of the teachers at Gardner School, District 23. (Unfortunately, the older school records are stored in an unknown area of the courthouse.) I had to depend on my memory and the memories of former students up to 1934. I remember Mr. Fred Marsh describing some of the colorful teachers before the 1900's. The former students of these years have gone to the Great Beyond so I was not able to get the teachers' names in the early days. There is a photo in existence of the school in 1898 showing a Miss Sadie Jarman as the teacher. There is a gap between her and Julia Hathaway. Julia Hathaway may have come after Lillie Pease.

In the fall of 1921 a new schoolhouse with two classrooms was ready for operation. The upper grades consisted of grades seven through ten. The lower grades consisted of kindergarten through grade six. Here is a list of teachers from the early twentieth century until the closure of the school when good old Gardner became a part of the Central City district.

Julia Hathaway
Lillie Pease
Margaret Madison
Mae Woodward
Edith Johns 1913-14
Calista Woolcott 1914-17
Myrtle Hoatson 1917-18
Veola Madison 1918-19
Annette Gosnell 1919-1920
Edith Halsey 1920-21

Erma Marsh, upper 1921-22
Velma Crouch, lower

Blanche Benson, upper, 1922-23
Lillian Condell, lower

Mae Livings, upper, 1923-24
Gladys Solt, lower

Warren Marsh, upper, 1924-25
Lola Black, lower

Velma Weber, 1925-26
No upper grades this year.

Mildred Crites, 1926-27
No upper grades.

Warren Marsh, upper 1928-29
Mildred Crites, lower

Wesley Lindahl, upper 1929-30
Mildred Crites, lower

Irene Boelts, upper 1930-31
Mildred Crites, lower

Irene Boelts, upper, 1931-32
Sylvia Fossberg, lower

Helen Johnston, upper, 1932-33
Mayme Kyes, lower

Margaret Madison, upper, 1933-34
Mayme Kyes, lower

Margaret Madison and
Charles Foley, upper 1934-35
Fern Funk, lower

Charles Foley, upper 1935-36
Fern Funk, lower

Fred Vipperman, upper 1936-37
Fern Funk, lower

Barclay Watson, upper 1937-38
Vera Willeman, lower

Barclay Watson, upper 1938-39
Vera Willeman, lower

Clarence Nelson, upper 1939-40
Vera Willeman, lower

Fred Vipperman, upper 1940-41
June Vipperman, lower

Fred Vipperman, upper 1941-42
June Vipperman, lower

Ruth Jennings, 1942-43
No upper grades

Ruth Steuben, 1943-44
No upper grades

Juanita De Moss, 1944-45
No upper grades

Juanita De Moss, 1945-46
No upper grades

Bertha Blauhorn, 1946-47
No upper grades

Winona Blauhorn, 1947-48
No upper grades

Winona Blauhorn 1948-49
No upper grades

Ila Mae Stander, 1949-50
No upper grades

Adeline Green, 1950-51
No upper grades

Adeline Green, 1951-52
No upper grades

Betty Holy, 1952-53
No upper grades

Betty Holy, upper 1953-54
Lila Glynn, lower

Lila Schwartz, 1954-55
No upper grades

Gene Land, upper, 1955-56
Verna Schwartz, lower

Mildred McClure, upper 1956-57
Verna Schwartz, lower

Mildred McClure, upper 1957-58
Della Rudolf, lower

Mildred McClure, upper 1958-59
Della Rudolf, lower

Janet Belitz, 1959-60
No upper grades

Jacquline Shull, upper, 1960-61
Phoebe McCullough, lower

Jacqueline Shull, upper 1961-62
Janet Belitz, lower

Luella King, upper 1962-63
Janet Belitz, lower

Luella King, upper, 3 months 1963-64
Laura von Aschwege, 1 month
Mildred Stone, 5months
Janet Belitz, lower

Mildred Stone, upper 1964-65
Gay Blauhorn, lower

Mildred Stone, upper 1965-66
Gay Blauhorn, lower

Mildred Stone, upper 1966-67
Gay Blauhorn, lower

At Gardner School District No. 23
Near Archer, Nebraska
About seventy years ago

| Back Row | Front Row | |
|---|---|---|
| Mamie Ferris | Richard Cheney | |
| Meta Boelts | Arthur Gregg | |
| Elsie Hackett | Richard Gardner | |
| Ben Gardner (my brother) | George Johnston ) | |
| Ethel Cheney | Robert Johnston ) | This is where Mr. Austin got the idea for the "Compact Automobile" |
| Lee Ferris | Stanley Gregg ) | |
| Sadie Jarman - Teacher; (Holding Treatise on Nuclear Energy) | Johnnie Wilson ) | |
| | Norval Gregg ) | |
| | Frank Johnston ) | |

Montrose, California,
December 25, 1966.

RICHARD N. GARDNER

This picture was taken in 1898.

GARDNER SCHOOL in 1922

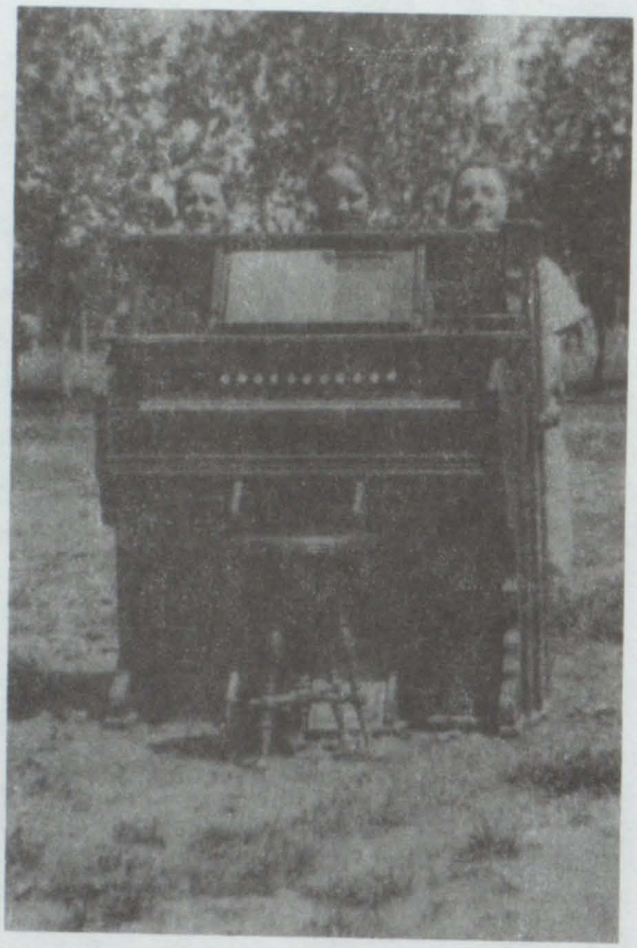
Upper Grades

Back row, left to right--Dean Kyes, Floyd Johnston, Leon Woods, Carl Holtz, Donald Kyes, Paul Nitzel, Leonard Kyes

Middle row--Arthur Holtz, Erma Marsh (teacher), Raymond Barnard, Wilbur Rice, Duane Woods

Front row-Helen Boelts, Mayme Kyes, Mary Belle Sampson, Lloyd Johnston

(I may be in error as to the identity of the Johnston twins. They certainly were look-alikes.)



Helen Boelts, Mary Belle Sampson, and Mayme Kyes behind the organ at an outdoor May Day Festival in 1922.

MISS BENSON, GARDNER SCHOOL
1922-1923

THE SIGNAL HAS BEEN GIVEN!

District 24 closed as an institution of learning in 1967, when a good-bye reunion was held. The building is now the home of Percy Foulk.

# TEACHERS THROUGH THE YEARS

| | |
|---|---|
| 1872 | Jane Hollywood |
| | R. A. LaFollette |
| 1883 | Lucia Boice |
| | Jennie Robinson |
| 1884 | Jennie Robinson |
| | J. M. Fulkerson |
| 1886 | W. B. Norton |
| | Ella Young |
| | F. S. Starrett |
| 1887 | Emma Young |
| 1888 | Emma Young |
| 1889 | Clay Jump |
| 1890 | Jennie Gray (or heirs) |
| 1890 | Gertrude Cooper |
| 1891 | Mollie Sinsel |
| 1891 | Jessie Frazier |
| 1891 | Florn Moore |
| 1892 | E. Roy Farnham |
| | Swisher |
| 1892 | Mary Jarman |
| 1893 | Lee Overholt |
| 1894 | Lizzie Haywood |
| 1894 | Lee Overholt |
| 1894 | George Boyd |
| 1895 | Ray Farnham |
| 1895 | Lillie Phelps |
| 1895 | L. L. Overholt |
| 1896 | Harriet Holden |
| 1897 | C. W. Buver |
| 1897 | Minie Rogers |
| 1898 | Guy Clark |
| 1899 | Maggie M. Kivett |
| 1899 | Birdie Donivon |
| 1900 | R. Farnham |
| 1900 | Mrs. H. Willet |
| 1900 | Minnie Rogers |
| 1901 | Minnie Rogers |
| 1901 | Hattie Bartlett |
| 1902 | Louise Baker |
| 1903 | Winnie Farnham |
| 1904 | Winnie Farnham |
| 1905 | Winnie Farnham |
| 1906 | Miss Pratt |
| 1907 | Carrie Brown |
| 1908 | Jennie Farnham |
| 1909 | Bessie Farnham |
| 1910 | Clara Haskins |
| 1911 | Clara Haskins |
| 1912 | Mae Woodward |
| 1913 | Mamie Galusha |
| 1914 | Agnes Anderson |
| 1915 | Agnes Anderson |
| 1916 | Ruth Joyce |
| 1917 | Iona Shull |
| 1918 | Iona Shull |
| 1919 | Cecille Van Pelt |
| 1920 | Harriet Emry |
| 1920 | Marie Kerr |
| 1921 | Marie Kerr |
| 1922 | Margret Hunt |
| 1923 | Doris Bender |
| 1924 | Beth Farnham |
| 1925 | Geneva Woodward |
| 1926 | Edna Widman |
| 1927 | Harriet Emry |
| 1928 | Harriet Emry |
| 1929 | Myrtle Melvin |
| 1930 | Myrtle Melvin |
| 1931 | Delbert Sampson |
| 1932 | Delbert Sampson |
| 1933 | Vera Wiles |
| 1934 | Vera Wiles |
| 1935 | Vera Wiles Brannan |
| 1936 | Evelyn Bivens |
| 1937 | Jean Travis |
| 1938 | Jean Travis |
| 1939 | Jean Travis |
| 1940 | Jean Travis |
| 1941 | Maxine Young |
| 1942 | Lois Zwiebel |
| 1943 | Lois Zwiebel |
| 1944 | Lois Zwiebel |
| 1945 | Edna Blauhorn |
| 1946 | Dorothy Campbell |
| 1947 | Dorothy Campbell |
| 1948 | Ila Mae Stander |
| 1949 | Kathleen McMahon |
| 1950 | Rhoda Land |
| 1951 | Rhoda Land |
| 1952 | Mrs. Dale Campbell |
| 1952 | Joyce Sunderman |
| 1953 | Jacquelyn Ridenour |
| 1954 | Darlene Kuhn |
| 1955 | Henrietta Gilmont |
| 1956 | Henrietta Gilmont |
| 1957 | Darlene Kuhn |
| 1958 | Amelia Nelson |
| 1959 | Amelia Nelson |
| 1960 | Nora Van Pelt |
| 1961 | Barbara Morgan |
| 1962 | Barbara Morgan |
| 1963 | Barbara Morgan |
| 1964 | Laura Von Aschwege |
| 1965 | Adeline Green |
| 1966 | Adeline Green |
| 1967 | Adeline Green |

# DISTRICT 24

On March 23, 1872 a meeting was held at the home of D. B. Comstock. It was voted to build a schoolhouse on the corner of Section 35, Township 14, Range 7. The building was to be one-story, 22 x 30 feet, to be furnished with a good stove and iron seats. Total cost of the schoolhouse was $763.24, coal house $57.02 and pump $25.90. Other expenditures that year were for coal at $13.00 a ton, and corn for fuel at 20¢ a bushel. Jane Hollywood was hired as the first teacher for three months at $27.00 a month.

In 1880 they put up a hitching post and bought five side lamps with reflectors. In 1916 they built a barn for four head of horses. At the 1923 school meeting, bonds were voted to build a new schoolhouse for $3500 at 6% interest. On March 25, 1940 that schoolhouse burned down and school was held for the rest of the year in a brooder house donated by Jim Sporer. Later another was built with the help of W.P.A. Jean Travis was the teacher at that time.

In 1873 at the school meeting they voted for seven months of school. They would pay $30.00 a month for summer months and $35.00 for winter months.

In 1878 the board voted to hire a female in summer and a male in the winter months of school.

In 1885 school expenses were: Teacher's salaries $244; taking census $1.25; fixing school desk $3.55; kerosene 40¢; bucket 25¢; crayons 20¢; load of cobs $1.00; coal $20.85; books $29.85; cleaning school house (plowing fire break included) $4.00; tin cup 5¢; total - $307.90. They levied 8 mills for teachers fund, six mills for incidentals. District valuation was $16,020.

On October 8, 1892 the school board met and made arrangements for a Columbus Day celebration. W. Jarman procured a flag pole and G.W. Newmyer procured a flag. On October 12 the district members and visitors raised the flag with other exercises. They celebrated the day in accordance with the recommendation of the President of the United States.

On October 27, 1892 invited guests met at the school house and enjoyed an oyster supper. The proceeds of $6.35 went to the treasury. Assessed valuation was $28,000.

In 1893 the board voted to put a pump down on the school grounds. A. O. King got the bid for hauling coal. He was the lowest bidder--he hauled it free of charge. In previous years it had cost from 45¢ to 78½¢ a ton.

In 1894 the board was instructed to move the privies to the east side of the school lot and replace and repair buildings destroyed by a storm.

In 1896 the board voted to have 8 months of school They levied 8 mills for the teacher and 7 mills for incidentals.

In 1898 the board had to hire 3 different teachers.

In 1905 the levy for the teacher was $200.00 and $50.00 for incidentals.

In 1906 the district voted to purchase one acre of ground on which the schoolhouse stood and to have a brick foundation put under the schoolhouse.

In 1907 the report of committee on securing one acre of land for schoolhouse stated they could not get a title to the land and therefore couldn't put in the brick foundation.

In 1908 the schoolhouse land was bought from Lena Benner for $65.00.

In 1913 a new heating plant was installed and new seats were bought. The stove was $120, the seats $100.

On April 23, 1914 a special meeting was called on having a rural high school district. It was voted down. It was also voted down to form a high school district with three or more other districts.

In 1915 the district voted to put on school election notice next year to vote bond for a new schoolhouse.

In 1923, at the school meeting, bonds were voted to build a new school house for $3500 at 6% interest. R. L. Rankin, H. M. Brannan, and Otto Held were the building committee. The old school house was to be torn down that summer. George Lindgren was in charge of construction. Over 200 attended the dedication of the new Comstock school. A very modern and up to date school with full basement, furnace, built in cabinets and bookcases, with a pump in the basement.

On March 25, 1940 the schoolhouse burned down.

On April 23, 1940 a special meeting was called to vote on building a new schoolhouse. Claus Wagner, Clarence Rodysil and Loren Brannan were on the building committee. The new schoolhouse was built with the help of W.P.A. (government initials for "Works Progress Administration) for $2573.38. The building, 33 x 22 feet with full basement. The school was called completely modern as it had an oil furnace in the basement and also a pump, with two new toilets built at the east side of the school yard.

In November, 1940, the new schoolhouse was dedicated with a picnic dinner and program.

District 24 was dissolved by merging with District #4 in 1967. A district reunion was held with many of the past patrons and teachers in attendance. Adeline Green was the last teacher and had 16 pupils. There has been as few as four pupils and as many as 50.

--Submitted by Mrs. Leo (Deva) Ellison and Mrs. Heber (Alma) Wagner

# THE ARCHER PUBLIC SCHOOL

The Archer school, District No. 46, was legally formed on March 18, 1874, under the supervision of Charles E. Mead, County Superintendent of Public Instruction. The first school census taken April 1, 1874, showed a total of seven children between the ages of five and twenty-one who would be eligible to attend school.

Asmall schoolhouse was built on the B.W. Baker farm about one half mile west of Archer on the north side of the road. It was called the Baker School.

District No. 46 officially opened school in the fall of 1892, after a two story wooden schoolhouse was built in Archer. Henry Chapman was the first instructor. Fred A. Marsh taught the upper elementary room during the school year of 1897-98.

The Baker School was no longer needed so it was sold to Ed Lehr and was moved to Archer. The Lehrs made it into a home. The original building, altered by additions, is now a part of the house owned by Dale Fousek. It stands one block east of the filling station operated by the Archer Oil Company and is on the north side of the street.

The Archer School was graded in 1902. The first eighth grade graduates were Bessie Baker, Harry Lehr, Alice Templin, Carl Hansen, Elsa Liebhart, Frances Lehr, Jessie Persinger, Mae Whitmore, and Rannie Baker.

In 1920, the Archer schoolhouse burned after almost twenty-eight years of use. While the new building was under construction, school was held temporarily in a building located at the north end of Carroll(Main) Street). In earlier days the upper story of this structure had been used as a Town Hall where people attended vaudeville shows, plays, and other public activities. The Methodist Church was also used for some classes.

Soon the new school was ready. It was a two story building with a flat roof. There were four large classrooms. One class room was later divided into two smaller classrooms and an office.

In the fall of 1925 the first four year high school opened in District 46. Prior to the term of 1925-26 a few secondary subjects were taught, but students would finish their courses and graduate from another high school. Twelve students were members of the first class to graduate from the Archer High School. Members of the class of 1926 were Katherine Hughes, Edna Brittin, Leonard Van Pelt, Herbert Stander, Dean Eckhoff, Viona Suck, Lola Belle Woodward, Mary Gardner, Elizabeth Sinsel, Ursula Held, Evelyn Bonness, and Virginia Lindgreen.

The Archer school district maintained a four year high school for thirty-one years.

The class of 1957 was the last to graduate from Archer High School. The high school was discontinued after the 1956-57 school year because of small enrollment and increasing expenses.

In 1958 all of District No. 43 and District No. 26 were added to District No. 46. The school accomodated kindergarten through grade eight. Further changes came on June 5, 1957 when District 46 was consolidated with the Central City Schools (District No. 4)

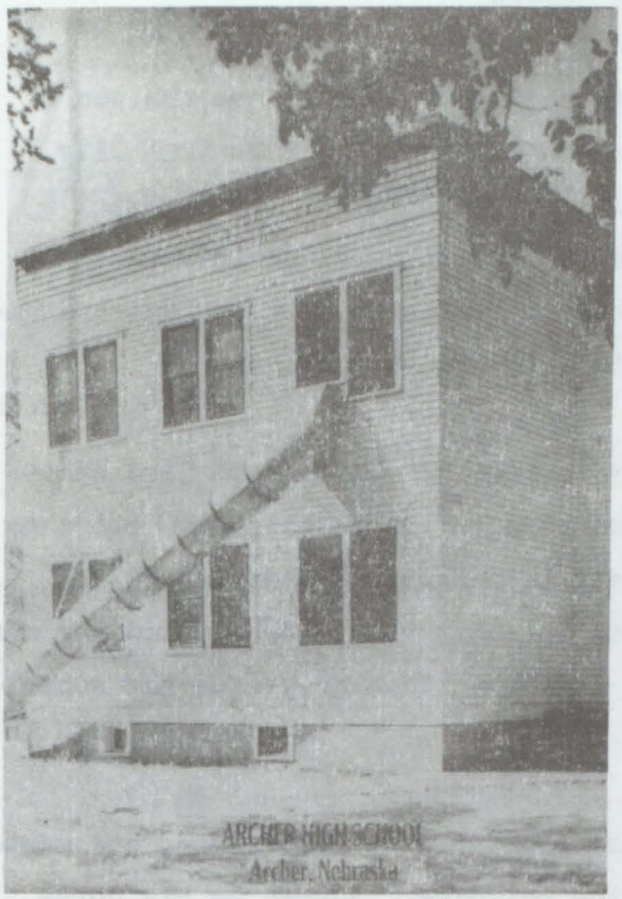
After the Archer School became a ward of the Central City School system, new services were added. Special teachers would drive to Archer where they would give instructions in vocal music, band, physical education, speech correction and remedial courses where needed. The school nurse also visited with the Archer students weekly and more often if she was needed.

Soon the sixth, seventh, and eighth graders were transferred to the Central Schools so that pupils could participate in athletic activities and take special courses that started in the Middle School.

The school continued with the remaining grades through May, 1985. Earlier in the year, residents of the Archer District had voted by special ballot to discontinue the operation of the Archer School because the enrollment was very small and the expense per pupil was high. The last gathering in the Archer school building was a picnic held on May 31, 1985 for all residents of the district. After the closing of the school, a public auction was held. Gordon Deichmann, a farmer who lived near Central City, purchased the building. It was to be dismantled and removed from the grounds.

After the razing of the building and the leveling of the yard, the old schoolground, including playground equipment, was presented to the town of Archer by the Central City Schools for use as a public park. The Archer Memorial Park was dedicated at a special ceremony held on the grounds August 16, 1987.

Submitted by Bonnie Scharvin Blauhorn.




Below--Archer School 1923-24
Elementary and High School
students and teachers.

# STOVEPOKER SCHOOL

Stovepoker School was thus named because two young men, one the son of a respected farmer and the other the son of a prominent Central City business man, set out to disrupt a literary meeting at the District 43 schoolhouse. Literary meetings were held monthly for social and cultural reasons. The people got together to listen to debates, watch dramatic performances put on by local talent, and to socialize.

The two young delinquents had freely imbibed of spirits and in a semi-drunken state got on their horses and rode to the schoolhouse, but they really had no fun. Herman Mithoeffer, the dignified chairman of the meeting, wasn't about to have his meeting disturbed. He grabbed the nearest available weapon, a stovepoker, and drove them away from the schoolhouse.

Fourteen year old Merna Van Pelt was frightened by the fracas, and wanted none of it. He quickly got out of the building, jumped on his horse, and rode home as fast as he could.

Thus from that time until the time the school was discontinued, the school was called "Stovepoker School." The building became a nearby farmer's hogshed.

Told to Helen Boelts by
Leonard Van Pelt.

RICHARD N. GARDNER
BOX 125
MONTROSE, CALIFORNIA

December 25, 1965.

A TRIBUTE TO ARCHER, NEBRASKA:

About ten years ago, the Walsworth Publishing Company, of Marcelene, Missouri, published an illustrated and very attractive pictorial volume under the title of -

DAYS GONE BY AT ARCHER HIGH

Mr. Rush Johnson, Jr., General Sales Manager of the firm, has not only granted permission to lithograph the photographs, but joins me in wishing, for present and former residents of Archer, their relatives and friends, the very best of everything for Christmas and the ensuing New Year.

It is my earnest hope these pictures will revive many pleasant memories.

Am sending copies to a few acquaintances in and about San Francisco who, knowing I attended the upper elementary Class of 1897-1898, under the able direction of the Honorable Fred A. Marsh, had the effrontery to ask if we Nebraskans wore shoes in those days, and if the majority of students were from the Sioux Indian Tribe, yet readily admitted never having heard of Sioux City Sue.

Apologies to my Nephew, Mr. Pat Gardner, of 180 Peabody Street, San Francisco, for having mutilated his book to obtain these copies.

Incidentally, how do you suppose Mr. Johnson, from way back in Missouri, ever managed to find Archer?

Dick Gardner

Encl.

1906 - MRS. FRANCES ECKHOFF, Teacher
Primary Room

Grammar Room
1906 - MRS. LLOYD WILLEMAN, Teacher

Back row, left to right--Jessie Kelso, Veldyne Irwin, Pearl Woodward, Aunilee Brannan, Alice Catherine Hansen, Miss McCoy (teacher), Juanita Franks, Mae Marjorie Wegner, Ruth Woodward, Lucille Hummel
Middle--Lila Belle Brannan
Front row--Virgil Rice, Frank Scharvin, Leland Wegner

The Irwins and the Kelsos lived in the Archer community a very short time. The other children are members of long time residents in the Archer area.

ARCHER, LOWER GRADES--1924-25

Back row, left to right--Portia Marsh (teacher), Thelma Hurst, Ralph Stander, Orville Riggs, Thomas Whaley, Vincent Gardner, unknown, Robert Drake, Barnett Franks, Dorothy Hummel,----Hurst

Front row--Eleanor Bonness, Rosemary Riggs, Jocelyn Babel, Juanita Franks, Ronald Babel, Aaron Retzlaff, Ruth Hummel, Ruth Perrell, unknown, Kenneth Eckles, Jean Hummel, Harold Mathis

ARCHER PUBLIC SCHOOL BECAME GRADED IN 1902 - FIRST 8th GRADE GRADUATES.
Back Row: Bessie Baker, Harry Lehr, Alice Templin, Carl Hansen, Elsa Liebhart
Front Row: Frances Lehr, Jessie Persinger, Mae Whitmore, Rannie Baker

# Dedication

ARCHER PICTORIAL ALUMNI BOOK --
-- DAYS GONE BY AT ARCHER HIGH

We feel it fitting to open our book with a pictorial view of the first graduates Archer ever had. Archer became graded in 1902, but it was not until 24 years later -- practically a quarter of a century -- 1926 that the school graduated its first High School Seniors -- 12 of them. To all Archer grads since 1902, we dedicate this book.

CLASS of 1926

First Archer High Graduates.

Back row--Left to right--Katherine Hughes, Edna Brittin, Leonard Van Pelt, Herbert Stander, Dean Eckhoff, Viona Suck, Lola Belle Woodward

Front row--Mary Gardner, Elizabeth Sinsel, Ursula Held, Evelyn Bonness Virginia Lindgreen

Norma, Donald, Barbara, Doyle Stolker

Julius Zamzow and his blacksmith shop

Archer School In 1923-24

"THE PEANUTS"--
Baseball Team in 1914.

Can you pick out
Ruth Powell and
Pearlie Glause?

Some alumni members a few years back.

OFFICIAL H. S. COLORS - GREEN and WHITE

OFFICIAL H. S. FLOWER - WHITE SNOWBALL

CLASS MOTTOS

1955 - "Aim High And Hold Your Aim"
1954 - "The Door To Knowledge Is Labeled Push"
1953 - "Excelsior"
1952 - "Sail On, Sail On, Sail On"
1951 - "The Elevator To Success Is Not Running--
Take The Stairs"
1950 - "Climb Though The Rocks Be Rugged"
1949 - "Love, Labor And Laugh"
1948 - "Truth And Honesty-They Be Our Guide"
1947 - "A Little Knowledge Is A Dangerous Thing"
1946 - "Not The End, But The Beginning"
1945 - "We Build For Character-Not For Fame"
1944 - "Tonite We Launch, Where Shall We Anchor"
1943 - "Night Brings Out The Stars"
1942 - "Not At The Top, But Climbing"
1941 - "Proceed, Not Recede"
1940 - "We Will Find A Path Or Make One"
1939 - "Looking Forward, Not Backward"
1938 - "The Best Is None Too Good"
1937 - "Success Waits At Labor's Gate'
1932 - "Either Find A Path Or Make One"
1929 - "Quality, Not Quantity"
1928 - "Onward And Upward"

| CLASS FLOWERS | CLASS COLORS |
|---|---|
| Sweet Pea | Royal Blue & White |
| Rose | Red & White |
| Carnation | Maroon & White |
| Red Rose | Red & White |
| | |
| Yellow Rose | Blue & White |
| Red Rose | Red & White |
| Rose | Blue & Gold |
| Carnation | Blue & White |
| Daffodil | Blue & Gold |
| Yellow Rose | Blue & Gold |
| Yellow Rose | Green & White |
| Rose | Old Rose & Silver |
| Yellow Rose | Blue & Gold |
| Rose | Crimson & Cream |
| White Carnation | Blue & Gold |
| Peony | Royal Blue & White |
| Rose | Royal Blue & Cherry |
| Tulip | Lavender & Gold |
| White Rose | Blue & Silver |
| Yellow Rose | Black, White, Gold |
| Yellow Rose | Blue & Gold |
| Sweet Pea | Blue & _____ |

Ina Jean Blauhorn Giles, Class of '46

Evelyn Scharvin Bruns
Class of '32

Bonnie Scharvin Blauhorn, Class of '29

Darlene Wegner Kuhn, Class of '46

Genevieve Stander Brink, Class of '30

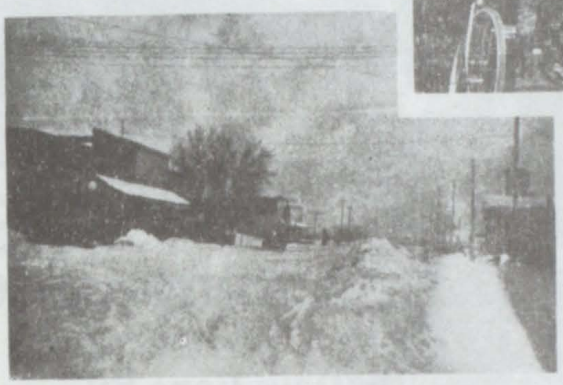
Rose Marie Sinsel Gilmont, Class of '43

Orville Dale Blauhorn
Class of '48

RIVERSIDE PARK 1935
Back Row: Left to Right: Holly Woodward, Margaret Young, Esther Hesselgesser, Letha Lindgreen
Front Row: Evelyn Scharvin, Ruth Perrell, Verion Byers, Ruby Holtz

May, 1937 - Played Hookey
Delbert Retzlaff, Frank Scharvin, Darrel Smith, Leland Wegner, Robert Schmidt

Bonnie and Evelyn Scharvin
1931



September, 1936 - Travelers
Melvin Neel, Jack McCutcheon, Donald Shull, Bill Neel, Frank Scharvin, Harold Brannon

Frank and his dog, 1935

# Those Old Days

Snow Scene in Archer, 1936

Frank Scharvin & his bicycle June, 1936

Leland Wegner, Frank Scharvin, 1934

Edna, Dorothy and Ina Jean Blauhorn

Shirley Moore Hawthorne---
Class Of '52

Norma Stalker Van Pelt and Don Stalker Both of the Class of '46

Charles Holtz

Walt and Lawrence Holtz and Vincent Foster. Walt's first year in A. H. S.

Alice C. Hansen Pickrel, Marjorie Riggs, Rosemary Riggs Wilson, Norton girl, Margaret Holtz, Jean Hummel, Norton girl, Dorothy Hummel, Jocelyn Bobel Kimberling

Robert McCutcheon, Alice Hansen Pickrel, Pearl Woodward Glause, Oletha Lindgren Nelson, Donald Shull, Betty Schmaltz Unger, Adeline Fogland Green, Hilda Untiedt, Wauneta Franks

# Familiar Faces Around Archer In Days Gone By

Lawrence Holtz

Bonnie Scharvin Blauhorn

Charles and Deva Lindgreen

ARCHER
HIGH
SCHOOL
In
1925-26

Rhea Jane Farmer Hookham
as a baby and as an 8th
grade graduate.

The Chorus - 1942

ARCHER
HIGH
SCHOOL
1941-1942

Henrietta
taught in
Archer
several
years.

Henrietta Boelts Gilmont
Class Of '43

ARCHER HIGH
1953--1954

ARCHER HIGH
1954 - 1955

ARCHER SCHOOL FACULTY--1953

Back Row--Elnora Bass, Principal
Melvin Zichek, Superintendent
Front Row-Bonnie Scharvin Blauhorn, Upper Elementary Grades. (She taught in the Archer Schools for 36 years, 1949 to 1976)
Henrietta Boelts Gilmont, Lower Elementary Grades.

# BONNESS NAME WILL DISAPPEAR FROM ARCHER SCHOOL ROLLS NOW

When the Archer public school closes this week, Paul son of Mr. and Mrs. Elmer Bonness, will be graduated from the eighth grade. This is not an unusual situation--most boys graduate from the eighth grade.

In September 1908, Harvey Bonness, son of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Bonness, started to school in Archer. This was not unusual either. All little boys go to school as soon as they are five years old.

-The combining of these two situations does present an unusual circumstance. Young Paul's graduation this week will take the Bonness family name off the Archer public school registers for the first time since Harvey started fifty years ago.

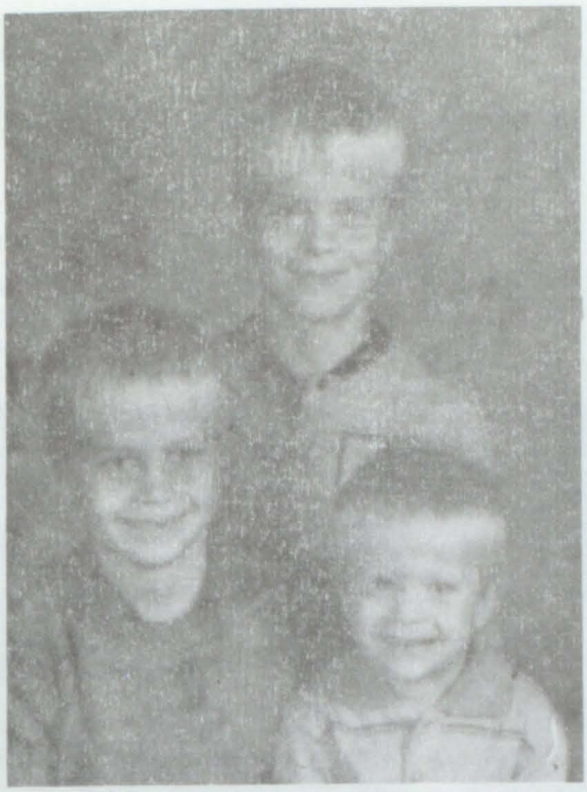
The eight children of Mr. and Mrs. Paul Bonness, Harvey, Arthur, Elmer, Evelyn, Wauneta, Orville, Eleanor and Quentin; the two children of Mr. and Mrs. Harvey Bonness, Harold and Kathryn; Bryce, the son of Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Bonness; and young Paul and his older sister, Carol Ann, have all gone to school here.

The three oldest Bonness brothers attended Central City High School before the high school was established in Archer. Since then, all the rest have graduated from the Archer High School, with the exception of Bryce, who moved to Grand Island several years ago.

Eight of those from the Archer High School went to University, six of them on scholarships.

Paul will attend Central City high school next fall since the Archer high school was discontinued last spring.

Central City Republican-Nonpareil
May 15, 1958



SOME ARCHER STUDENTS IN LATER YEARS.

At the left, Lee Retzlaff, Duke Retzlaff, and little brother Dillon, not yet in School.

Below
John Boelts, Bob Boelts

GRAND ISLAND INDEPENDENT Sunday, May 26, 1985

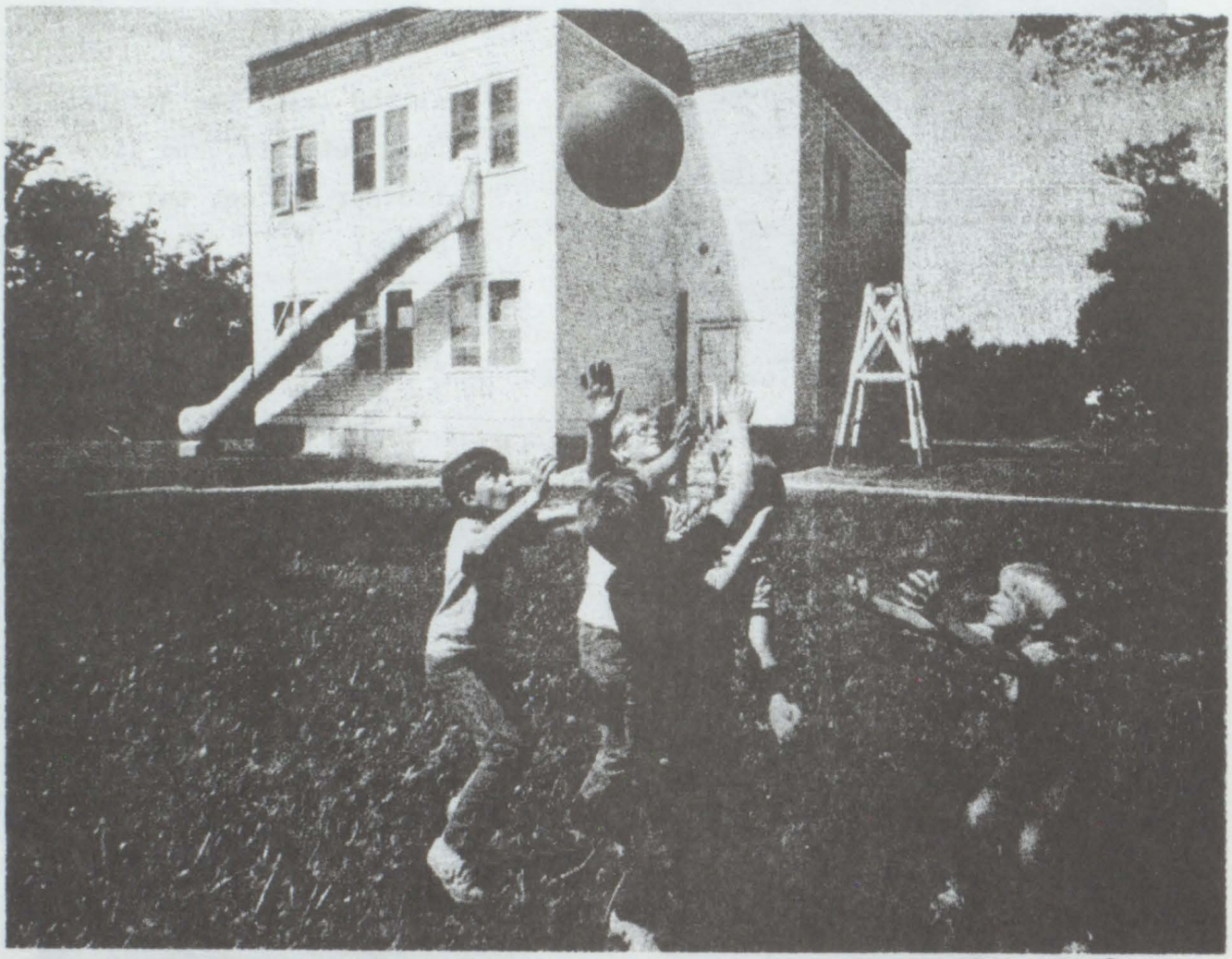


Photo by Dennis Grundman

**Students play outside Archer Elementary School.**

Story on next page.

## *93-year tradition ends*

# Archer grade school closes

By Jim Faddis
Independent Staff Writer

ARCHER — The school bell in Archer rang for the last time Thursday.

After 93 years of existence, the Archer Elementary School is closed. The nine students at the school will be attending school in Central City in the fall.

For Martha Retzlaff, who has lived next to the school for years, it was a sad day.

"I'll miss them," she said as she watched the kids play in the school yard on the last day of school. "I've lived here a long time. I went to school here," she said.

The Archer school has been consolidated with the Central City school system since 1967. Under the consolidation agreement, the Archer school couldn't be closed unless Archer residents voted to close it. Last March, after four previous attempts to close the school had failed, Archer voters finally went along with it, voting 48-32 to close the school.

For the Central City School District, keeping the Archer school open became a matter of finances, Superintendent Gerald Carnes said.

"There were so few students left it did not appear financially feasible to continue the attendance center," Carnes said. "Our bus routes are in place there and the district could save $25,000 annually by closing the school. With the state of the agricultural economy, we saw it as one way to help the school district cut down on duplicated costs."

But for most Archer residents, it was a sad day. "It was just like when the church burnt down years ago," Retzlaff said. The church was never rebuilt, leaving the town of less than 100 without a church. Now it no longer has a school.

"When a church or a school goes, it destroys these little places," Retzlaff said.

The town has always supported the school, the school's only teacher, Donna Reed, said. Just about everyone in town, whether they have children at the school, attends the school's programs.

"It's kind of sad for a lot of people," Reed said. "A lot of their parents, grandparents, aunts and uncles have gone to school here."

There are arguments on both sides of the question on where the children will receive the best education — at the one-classroom school in Archer or in the larger elementary schools in Central City.

Carnes lists the following things the students will have in Central City they didn't have in Archer: more frequent access to a library, classes with students their age, a school lunch program, school nurse, a gym, programs for the gifted and special education programs.

However, the students will miss the contact with children of other ages they now have, Reed said. This year the school had three kindergartners, three fifth graders and one student each in the first, second and fourth grades.

"The younger students would see the older ones writing and they would write too," she said. "The younger ones are always trying to outdo the older ones."

Reed said the students also will miss the peaceful country setting of the Archer school. Reed will teach second grade in Central City in the fall.

What happened to the Archer school may start happening more frequently in Nebraska with the Legislature's passage of the school consolidation bill LB662, according to Carnes. The consolidation bill requires kindergarten to eighth grade school districts to merge or affiliate with a district with a high school by 1989.

The bill is similiar to the Central City/Archer consolidation agreement in that an attendance center couldn't be closed unless the residents of the center voted to close it.

"Our agreement worked fine," Carnes said. "After they merged with Central City, they still had their attendance center for 17 years and they decided when they didn't need it."

But the town will still miss the school, Retzlaff said. In fact, the town decided to have a community picnic Friday as the last school event.

Bonnie Blauhorn, who taught at the Archer School for 36 years until 1976, said she is sad to see the school close. But, she said, it might be the best thing for the students.

"Things have to change and progress has to be made," she said. "I have mixed emotions, but it might be for the good of the school."

GRAND ISLAND (Neb.) DAILY INDEPENDENT
Sunday, May 26, 1985

Grand Island (Neb.) Daily Independent Saturday, August 15, 1987

# Residents volunteer to build Archer Park

*The lot is about a half block in size and sits in the middle of town. It has always been a place for children. For as long as most Archer residents can remember, it was the spot where the Archer school stood. When the school closed two years ago, the school building was torn down and it became a vacant lot. Now, because of the hard work and volunteer efforts of many people, it's a park.*

By Deb Reeves
Independent Correspondent

ARCHER — Archer, a small town 25 northeast of Grand Island, has somewhere between 60 and 70 residents. Like most small communities, its people work together; there seems to be no limit to what they can accomplish.

This summer, the people of Archer have been celebrating their centennial, and at the same time, building a new park.

The park, built at the former site of the Archer school, is the fulfillment of a lifelong dream for Archer resident Dwaine VanPelt. The school district donated the land to the community for use as a park.

Since it was hard for the people of Archer to lose their school, turning the empty lot into a community park eases the pain. It is a constant reminder that the place is for children and their families, VanPelt said.

The new park will be known as the Archer Memorial Park.

"We put the 'memorial' in there for that reason, (for) the sacrifices our forefathers have made for education and for the young people of the community," VanPelt said.

The school is also remembered in another way. The old round fire escape was donated for use as a slide by Gordon Deichmann, who salvaged the old building. From that point, a group of dedicated volunteers took over, designing and building a ramp and platform and mounting the old fire escape.

The platform and ramp for the slide was built using the supports from the old original bell tower, VanPelt said.

"We didn't have a firm plan before we started; we just kind of stumbled along," he said.

Before the slide was put up, his wife, Carmen, painted each section. The multicolored result is a real eye-catcher and the youths in the community were ready to slide before the last bolt was in, VanPelt said.

"It didn't take them long to get started. There have been kids on it from the time we set it up," he added.

Along with the slide, the old original playground equipment is part of the new park, and basketball hoops erected by the school will provide a good workout for the older children.

The original school bell is in storage. But as soon as enough funds are available, the volunteers plan to mount the bell on a marker in the park.

George Ferris provided another unique piece of playground equipment. He built and donated a lever-operated 'power shovel' to test the digging skills of the young people.

Not only are the needs of the children met, other necessities of a park have been set into place over the past few weeks.

Volunteers have repaired and repainted all of the playground equipment, put in a well for fresh water, donated grills, picnic tables, bird houses and even trees. The Merrick Foundation built the restrooms, and other cash donations have been used to help with miscellaneous expenses.

There are some large existing trees in the new park, but the non-profit organization formed to develop and administer the new facility are hoping to plant more trees this fall. Some trees have already been donated, and the group is open to more, VanPelt said.

"We're hoping that families will donate trees. That will make this even more of a family place. The trees can carry on the names and memories of the people who went to school here and lived in the town over the years," VanPelt said.

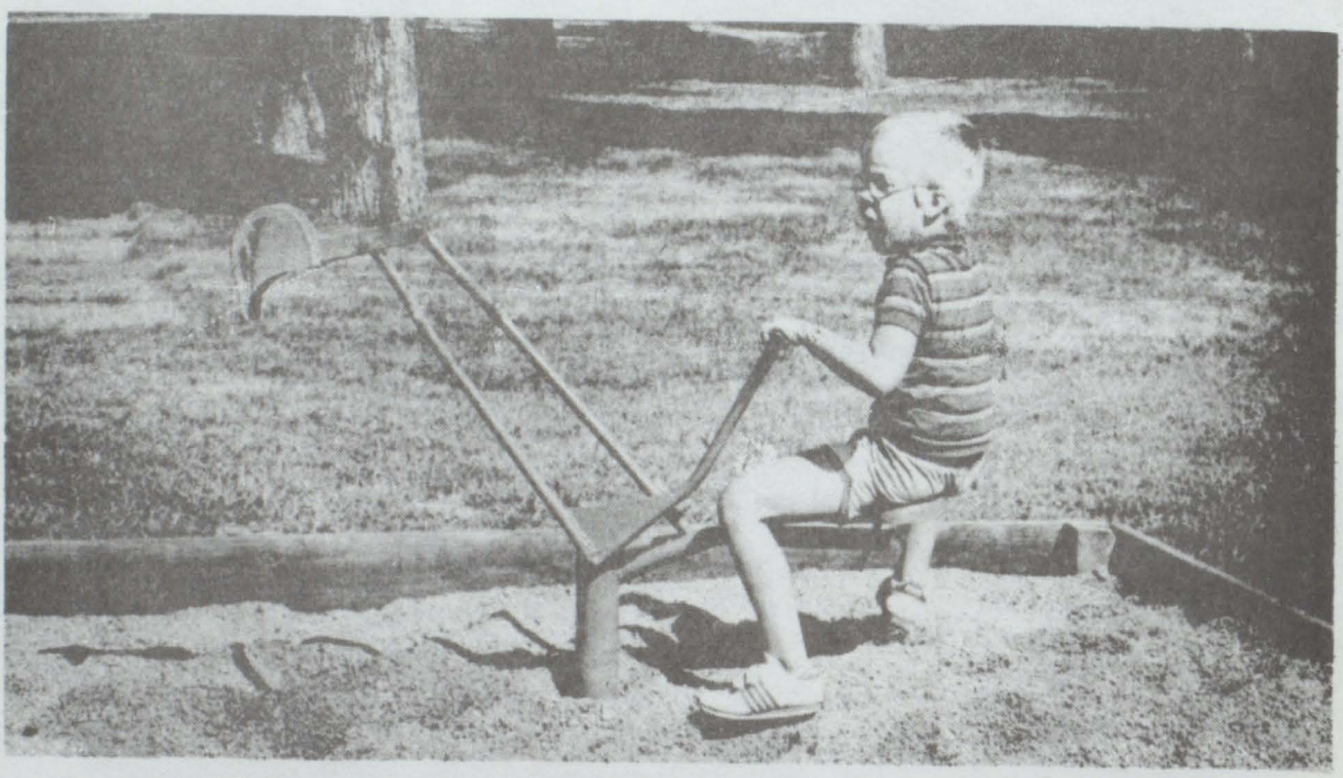
The park will see its first major event this weekend as the community concludes the centennial activities that began early in the summer.

On Saturday evening, the deed to the park will be formally presented to the park corporation by the school district following a banquet.

All in all, planning for the centennial and getting the park project off the ground has been really gratifying, VanPelt said.

"There has been a tremendous response by the community to everything that's happened so far. When we had the other events earlier this summer, I couldn't believe the participation," VanPelt said. "The whole thing has been a tremendously time-consuming project. It's taken literally hundreds of man hours to get it all put together."

Almost every day the men were working, Leonard and Vera VanPelt (center), who live next to the part, made sure they had coffee, iced tea, and lots of cookies.



Andrew Ferris tries out the power shovel built by George Ferris.

Grand Island (Neb.) Daily Independent

Saturday, August 15, 1987

Photo by Deb Reeves

***Archer slide.*** **Posing on the top of the new slide at Archer Memorial Park are some of the volunteers who helped build the slide. It was made from the old round fire escape, which was salvaged when the Archer school was torn down. For more on Archer and its new park, see Lifelines on page 9.**

FROM THE PEN OF DEACON GARDNER

MAIL CARRIER

The old horse power mail wagon with Hertha jergens and Mamie Wegner

A more modern conveyance

A more modern conveyance

# ARCHER IN THE NEWS

The Central City papers of yesteryear give much information about the good people of Archer and their activities. It is well worth anyone's time to go to Hards Memorial Library in Central City to read the microfilm of the old papers. Some of the Archer items, quite serious in the good old days, are very amusing today. Deacon Gardner, the cleverest of the Archer correspondents, deliberately made his items amusing.

Here are some Archer items from the Central City papers:

April 4, 1896 - The B&M is putting in a switch on Section 25 for the Ogallala Ranch.

This township is filling up fast at the present time. Almost every vacant farm is taken and I believe every cultivated land in Midland will be farmed this year.

November 30, 1899 - The church is fast nearing completion. The spire is nearly finished. The outside has been painted and plastering will begin this week.

Feb. 8, 1900 - Chris Franks and Deacon Gardner have been hauling baled hay into town for two weeks past.

March 1, 1900 - Hansen and Templin finished putting up ice last week.

John McKendry and Mr. E. Hansen returned from Lincoln last week Thursday whither they had been to attend the convention of Nebraska Dairymen.

March 8, 1900 - Revival meetings in progress at the M. E. Church are accomplishing a great deal of good. On Sunday last Mrs. E. McKendry, Alice Templin, Bessie Baker, Lena McKendry, Louis McKendry, Lizzie Lehr, Sylvia Franks, and Mrs. C. Frank united with the church on probation.

March 22, 1900 - S. D. Ayres of Central City arrived in Archer with three carloads of lumber. When asked why he came, he said, "I believe that Archer will support a lumber yard and I have come to start one." Our people say with one accord, "Good."

April 20, 1900 - The "Franks'House" has now ten boarders and more are coming.

June 7, 1900 - Dr. C. C. Paxton of the Omaha Medical School has opened offices in Archer.

June 11, 1900 - The new elevator at Hord's Siding is almost completed. It is fitted with car and wagon dumps and has a capacity of about 45,000 bushels.

September 27, 1900 - Dr. Paxton and a doctor from Grand Island performed an operation at the home of Gus Rudolf last week. The little girl is doing well and will probably recover.

November 1, 1900 - T. B. Hord has bought the Archer Grain Elevator. We understand that a number of changes will be made.

February 20, 1901 - The bachelors of Archer went to the Gardner home last Saturday evening to help Deacon celebrate his 21st birthday. The evening was spent playing games, making music (?), smoking, etc. Those present were Messers. Schroeder, Wegner, Bonness, Harry and Ward Morse, Talkington, Brannan, Paxton and Geo. Gardner. Before taking their leave, the guests presented him with a handsome rocking chair.

March 14, 1901 - Compelled to build more rooms or to reduce stock, we will give 20% off on each full dollar's worth of dry goods sold during the month of March. Hansen and Templin.

March 21, 1901 - Wilfred Lebert went to Omaha to attend barber school.

April 11, 1901 Wilfred Lebert returned from Omaha where he had been attending barber school. He gave it up as a bad job.

April 25, 1901 Miss Nellie Baker and Deacon Gardner were married Wednesday evening at the home of Mr. and Mrs. E. E. Farnham. They are at home to their friends in Archer.

There is some talk of starting a string band in Archer. All that is lacking is a little material.

Mayo and Milo Van Pelt have been investing in two new cream separators.

The Ladies' Aid Society met at the church Wednesday and sewed enough rags together to make a carpet for the parsonage.

June 19, 1901 - Hansen and Templin are shipping 65 to 75 tubs of butter per week now, and still the amount increases.

June 20, 1901 - Someone has been helping themselves to Herman Eckert's chickens. Guess the party is the same one who got Allison Gurney's cobs. Well, who can cook a chicken without cobs to burn?

December 25, 1905 - The Archer band has decided not to give a band recital at the Academy during the holidays, but has postponed the date until sometime in January--probably about the middle of the month. Full program and the date will be announced later.

December 25, 1905 - Oscar Persons and Dick Gleason were in Archer the fore part of the week assisting in the telephone changes at that place and packing the switchboard for shipment to Omaha.

February 8, 1906 - The old men swear little religious oaths, the women talk, the girls giggle, the boys jolly, the babies cry and the cocks crow when we have our new telephone system.

April 7, 1906 - The Archer band gave a concert at Central City last Saturday night. It was well liked and appreciated by all. The seats were full and many had to stand.

June 30, 1906 - There will be a 4th of July celebration at the grove of August Wegner.

The Archer band has been secured by the manager of Grand Island for July 4.

July 28, 1906 - Although our band is small, it is one of the best in the state. In a few days we will see them coming forth in their new uniforms.

March 16, 1907 - The band intends to give a concert at Palmer during the latter part of March. The date is not fixed.

March 20, 1907 - Frank Tackhammer has laid aside his skunkskin coat and has taken to wearing a straw hat.

Julius Zamzow fell over a wire fence and tore his trowsers while he was running across the country the other evening.

April 13, 1907 - Frank Tachkammer is in mourning because someone kicked a hole in the side of his accordian.

May 7, 1901 - J. D. Van Pelt visited the county seat Monday. He said upon his return that he didn't find anything to drink but water.

May 14, 1908 - Park Grace killed six wolves Monday and took their scalps down Tuesday and received a bounty on them.

June 4, 1908 - Girl No. 2 arrived at Dr. Paxton's Friday, May 28.

Margaret McCutcheon came home from Red Cloud Saturday. Miss McCutcheon is principal of the high school at that place.

June 11, 1908 - Miss Emma and Tillie Boelts were Central City passengers Friday.

Julius Zamzow and Phocian Hansen went to Central City to attend roller skating.

We notice by the papers
We are in the midst of a presidential race,
And we glean from the headlines
That Bryan and Taft are
principals for the place,
But the people of Midland Township do not
seem to be interested as to who
shall get Teddy's place,
But everyone in this vicinity is shouting
For his favorite in the Road Boss race.
First, the Republicans held their caucus
And up rose Carl Sinsel so lean and so lank
And placed in the monination for Road Boss
That sterling old prohibitionist,
Christopher Columbus Frank.
Then came the Democrats and they met over at Wall Street Place
and Jake Weber was named for Road Boss
After a most eloquent speech by "Pace."*
In the political history of Midland Township
Such a contest has never taken place before
Even the battle which elevated to the bench
J. Henry Durst, but watch this column next week for more.

*Pace was a nickname given to Fred G. Boelts by his cousins, Fred and Henry Boelts. Fred G. Boelts was of a very sensitive nature and he did not like his nickname.

Henry Boehl had the misfortune of injuring his arm as the result of a fall last week. It was fortunate that he fell on his arm as it prevented further injury.

October 29, 1908 - J. D. Van Pelt discussed the political issues with the multitude in the county capital Monday.

We forgot to chronicle in last week's items that while Bill Sinsel lost his hat at the Bryan rally, he held on to his pocket book.

Pat Eckhoff, the "Flying Dutchman" has been busy for the past month lathing his house. He expects to get it completely lathed in the next ninety days.

November 3, 1908 Election was a very quiet affair here and only from the throngs of teams, groups of men, the noise made by Fred G. Boelts, C. Franks and the church bell, which told of the big feed at the church, no one would have expected anything was going on. In closing our letter, we hear that the Road Boss vote, which seems to have been the main issue, is as follows: C. Franks 81, Jacob Weber 93.

November 12, 1908 - Broken fragments of unjointed harmony issued from the house of Bill Yeik upon the arrival of a new piano.

June 25, 1908 - William Sampson who was operated on last Wednesday for stomach trouble is getting along nicely and will be able to be removed to his home here in a couple of weeks.

June 28, 1908 - The old historic schoolhouse in District 23, where the characters of some of our most noble citizens were shaped, was adorned by a belfry last week. This greatly enhances the beauty of the structure, which in itself is beautifully located among a grove of young trees.

July 9, 1908 - The whole shebang of the Zamzow family visited William (Sampson) who just came home from the hospital.

We thought at first when seeing Aunt Fannie Sinsel yesterday that she and Uncle William had been talking politics, but a little explanation on her part showed us just how she got a black eye while knocking down big apples from the top of the tree. Some apples struck your reporter in the pit of the stomach there once that made him black in the face.

August 9, 1908 - Wilfred Lebert was in the neighborhood again.

August 13, 1908 - Midland Township can boast some fields of corn. We believe the field of Mr. August Retzlaff near the German church caps the climax.

August 27, 1908 - If you notice a decrease in the amount of flies in the house, don't be alarmed. They are having a few days' recreation picnicking on the drying sweetcorn and will be back soon.

September 24, 1908 - Fred G. Boelts is sure enough of Bryan's election that he bought a new family carryall Tuesday evening.

October 6, 1908 - Christopher Columbus Franks came home Friday from the state capital where he had gone to visit relatives, see the great parade, and secure medical treatment for his hand, which was injured while handling a fractious broncho.

October 15, 1908 - Wilfred Lebert went to hear Mr. Bryan Wednesday. Will had his grip with him, and we were in fear that he would follow the peerless statesman on his way. Before the train left we examined the rods and bumpers but found him there not. We saw him afterwards uptown.

October 22, 1908 - F. Boelts was down to the Democratic Rally to get new pointers for the campaign.

The schoolbells in four different districts were heard ringing all at the same time.

Charles Woodward had an all night session with the gasoline engine Friday night.

November 19, 1908 - Market report: Wheat 86¢, Corn 49¢, Hens 7½¢, Springs 8¢, Butter 20¢, Eggs 22¢

November 26, 1908 - Pat Eckhoff has finished lathing his house.

Fred Wegner sold three fancy rigs this week. If you want a fine up to date buggy, come to Archer.

Bismark Wegner went to Central City Saturday evening to attend lodge. He made the trip without accident, not coming in contact with a single automobile.

There was shipped last week out of Archer four cars of potatoes, nine cars of hay, 108 tubs of butter, and eighty-six crates of chickens. Where can you find a town the size of Archer that can make as good a showing?

December 10, 1908 - All the animals were skating Friday night. In the party were Catfish Franks, Monkey Boehl, Fisherman Woodward, and Elephant Campbell.

December 31, 1908 - Frank Tackhammer's horse that has strayed away or was stolen has not been heard from yet.

January 7, 1909 - Frank Tackhammer discovered his missing horse in an open well about 100 feet from his house last Sunday. While strolling in the yard with Fred Wegner who was calling on him. This is the third time we have been compelled to report various misfortunes that have befallen Mr. Tackhammer. All because he is not a man of family. First his consignment of skunk hides that he was thawing out in his oven burned up, entailing him a great loss. Had he a wife, this would not have happened. Next he slopped pancake batter into his sheepskin shoes spoiling them. Thirdly his horse had never concealed itself so long had Mr. Tackhammer been married as long as the Record Reporter. Some member of the family would have found the animal in its predicament and it would have been rescued before its death. Tack, hunt up a woman and hike to Judge Peterson's office at once. We may state that the horse was dead when found. Had the weather been warmer it would have been found sooner.

January 10, 1909 - Paul Bonness handed down a box of Virginia cheroots Friday, asking his friends to smoke with him in honor of a new dishwasher that arrived at the house that day. This is the first girl and the three brothers think the baby is a fine addition to the family.

February 1, 1909 - Mr. Rankin, who bought the D. W. Farnham place, will move here from Iowa the first of the month.

February 11, 1909 - H. J. Boehl and son have started a hay stacker factory on Tazewell Street. Some fine work is being turned out.

February 25, 1909 - The new post office is to be newly equipped with the latest distributing case and lock boxes. We saw the architect drawing plans for the building the fore part of the week and we probably will see a new post office at the corner of Ford and Tazewell.

A big mob of boys, young and old men at the depot Saturday was a sign that Park Grace's motorcycle had come. Not since the horns came for the old band was there so much to be seen. Had Mr. Grace charged an admission he could have paid for the machine and more people might have come to see it. As soon as it was dark the machine was loaded into a wagon and hauled away. The next morning it could be heard tearing around town and is still running. Everyone here is going to buy a motorcycle.

March 18, 1909 - At the last crackerbox senate, it was decided that Archer must have some sidewalks. Now if everyone will jump in and do his share, the town may be known as the cement city.

John Boelts (not the representative or gas blowing Boelts,) but our local "Honest John" has purchased a farm of two acres located just east of Garret Eckhoff's. Mr. Boelts will at once fence that tract and will plant it to corn this year. This is the most productive land on the townsite and John may make two ears of corn grow where one did before.

E. T. Sullivan is displaying prosperity signs by displaying a brand new harness for his team. The old harness pegged out like the Deacon's "One Hoss Shay" leaving a load in the field which could not be moved without a new harness.

March 25, 1909 - Barred Plymouth Rock eggs carefully selected for 25¢ for 15 eggs. Mrs. Chris Franks.

April 5, 1909 - The name of W. G. Sampson to the NONPAREIL'S subscription list. The dollar probably came from the sale of his topnotch hogs he sold in Omaha a while ago.

April 8, 1909 - The country is saved and Hon. John G. Boelts is home again among the folks on the creek. John showed the townspeople a picture of the house Saturday upon his arrival and his likeness was as prominent as the nose on your foot. John is an awfully homely fellow but he takes a good picture so what's the difference.

April 22, 1909 - Mayo Van Pelt purchased a new piano at Hastings Brothers last week. Mayo just finished his new house and his piano will make comfort complete.

April 29, 1909 - Jefferson Davis Van Pelt and son Jesse have been batching it for a few days while the women folks are away visiting. Jeff says he does not mind the cooking but does not want to cook for anyone else. Anyone else would probably think so too.

Fred G. Boelts with the valuable assistance of his cousin, Fred Boelts, is building a four foot elephant strong fence around his dooryard. Mrs. F. G. is now dreaming of a flower garden located inside the fence with no chickens to molest it.

May 13, 1909 - A new member was added to the cradle roll when Mr. Stork left a fine boy at William Nitzel's. This makes five boys and no girls. If this thing keeps up, Bryan may be elected yet.

May 17, 1909 - A news item deserving space at the head of the column is that Mr. and Mrs. F. M. Brittin are rejoicing over the arrival of a fine baby girl that is a whole lot better looking than either of its parents.

June 10, 1909 - The Burlington chief moguls made a thorough investigation of their property here the first of the week. Mr. Bignell was well pleased with the way the weeks were cut but did not see the mud holes in that immediate vicinity.

June 24, 1909 - Jake Weber was out promptly after Sunday night's rain fixing up the roads. He fixed one culvert near Mayo Van Pelt's place that needed repair and got it.

July 1, 1909 - The latest improvement on Wegner and Bonness premises is a gasoline house that is in plain sight of all autoists. If people continue to buy gasoline engines as they have, it will take one man just to look out for the gasoline business.

July 15, 1909 - R. G. McCutcheon is having his gasoline engine attached to his harvester. Blacksmith, J. G. Zamzow is bossing the job. J. G. came near to losing his trowsers by getting them caught in a revolving shaft just as the engine had been shut off. A few seconds more our village smithy would have been looking for a barrel to walk home in.

July 22, 1909 - R. G. McCutcheon's gasoline engine lost its cud again last Saturday but is now ruminating steadily.

July 29, 1909 - We hear that Curtis Farnham has sold his farm on the ridge for $80.00 per acre. Mr. Farnham intends to make Central City his home. Archer will lose one of its best families when his folks move away.

Frank Tackhammer has a fireless cooker now and he says it doesn't matter whether he gets a woman or not. The first job of woking was a batch of beans and the pot was a good one.

August 5, 1909 - Ex County Supt., F. A. Marsh, was in our burg with a coil of rope on his arm Tuesday evening. The ever ready smile on his face betrayed no signs of weariness of life so we concluded that the rope was for his stacker.

August 12, 1909 - Pat Eckhoff has a peeled proboscis caused by butting on a board while piling lumber at the yard.

September 9, 1909 - When George Wilson was shelling corn on Mr. Shattuck's farm, a chain broke on the machine, flying off and badly crippling his favorite dog. George said that the dog ought to have been home minding his own business.

October 14, 1909 - Loren Brannan, C. Franks' coachman, has resigned his position and has gone home where he will assist his father in feeding cattle this coming winter.

Adam Suck is putting a cement floor in his hen house. For the past few weeks the skunks have raided his hennery until it can be tolerated no longer. Johnnie Boehl is giving the instructions as to how the work should be done.

October 28, 1909 - Insurance agents are making life miserable for our natives. No less than five are speiling the merits of their plans for people.

We noticed a new fangled churn at the Union Station billed to William Johnston. William is apparently going into the dairy business on a larger scale than ever.

November 18, 1909 - Jacob Weber has graded the half mile road past Mr. Holtz's place. He took advantage of a recent dry spell completing the job just before the storm. Oren Rawlings, William Otto and Mr. Holtz helped with the work.

Frank Tackhammer realized $97 for his shipment of furs last week. Two especially fine mink hides brought the sum of $7.80 and one alone brought Mr. Tack $4.00. While the market was off on skunk pelts, the muskrat market was good, his eighty-one rat hides bring 63¢ each.

November 24, 1910 - While the entire state was in a fever of excitement over who would be elected governor, Aldrich or Dahlman, the voters of Midland were taking no interest in any political contest except who should be elected road boss. The three candidates: Frank Merlejohn Gilham, Republican; Henry Pat Judy (I think the correct spelling is Tschudy), Democrat; Christopher Columbus Franks, Independent. All the parties and many of their followers spent the entire day working in behalf of their candidates. Billy Palmateer, campaign manager for Mr. Gilham, claimed his election by an overwhelming majority, but on the other hand, Mr. Franks, who personally conducted his campaign, claimed the election by twenty votes. But lo and behold when the votes were counted, they were as follows: Gilham 38, Franks 36, Judy 35, and Scrubby Sampson 6. How's that for a close contest!

December, 1910 - At the annual meeting of the Archer Shipping Association last Saturday, Adoph Nitzel and Fred C. Wegner were reelected shippers for the association. According to their report, they have shipped fifty carloads of stock, 711 head of cattle, 2607 hogs, a total weight of 1,151,060 pounds bringing $74,636.17 in money. Only six head of hogs were lost during the entire year.

Mr. Hansen's business is not the only business in town. There is a village blacksmith conducted by J. G. Zamzow. In the past year or so Julius has got married, installed a gasoline engine in the shop that operates a power shear, a disc sharpener, power hammer, and if work keeps crowding him to shoe horses at night, an electric lighting plant will also be put in. Julius has a fine girl at his house and a cradle might also be operated by the gasoline engine.

January 1, 1911 - The old Gardner Seminary is the District No. 23. It has turned out largest bunch of students of any district in the county. Ten students as follows will take up work at Nebraska Central College at the beginning of the term: Cecil Johnston, Lisle Ferris, Earl Marsh, Erma Marsh, Ray Gilette, Ray Mattison, Lloyd Nitzel, Norval Gregg, Alice Gregg, and Arthur Gregg.

January 12, 1911 - During the past week George Roat banked up his house. Mr. Tackhammer has killed five skunks. Chris Franks has hauled nine loads of hay from the Loup. Mr. Boharty and Mr. Simoneck have sawed up five trees into stove wood. Mr. Galusha broke up a team of colts to drive. Dr. Pitts and Joe Cogil cleaned up their autos. W and B oiled the store floor and Julius Zamzow shod sixty-two teams of horses.

February 12, 1911 - After a long and delayed search by many an interested party, the second hand Judge Peterson marriage license has been located again. George Washington Roat has it in his possession. John Boelts turned it over to him last week. Friends hold out no hopes for John, but George's admirers are looking forward. George has fixed up his house, shortened the jute string that holds up his trowsers together when he is going to "meeting". Other proofs of something doing are that he will make no more contracts for baling hay or any definite promise of what he will do. George has also said that he has gone to his last wolf hunt.

May 4, 1911 - On Friday at 12 o'clock, Miss Ella Wegner was united in marriage to Warren Riggs. Only immediate relatives were present. They left for St. Edward immediately after the ceremony and after a short visit there will return and go to housekeeping in the Frank Sampson home.

May 25, 1911 - A carload of silo material arrived in Archer Monday. It will be used by the farmers who intend to erect silos this summer.

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June 1, 1911 - John Mueller and Andy Rice have joined the ranks of automobile owners. Mr. Mueller went to Omaha with John Hastings and returned with a four passenger Maxwell and Andy Rice who purchased an Overland touring car.

June 8, 1911 - Automobiles are bought by the wholesale around Archer. It is easier to tell who has none than to tell who purchased cars this spring.

June 22, 1911 - Rainmaker, Johnnie Boehl, has come to the relief of a patch of potatoes to such an extent that he was tempted to put his usually fertile brain in action. To believe the reports as heard from his own tongue, the result must have been most gratifying and we were almost convinced that New Jersey will have to give up the claim of having the most inventive genius of the world in the person of Thomas A. Edison.

June 29, 1911 - The German folks will give a Sunday School picnic in the August Wegner Grove two miles west of town on July 4. A patriotic program will be rendered in the forenoon consisting of music, drills, etc. Possibly a speaker will be secured for the afternoon.

August 3, 1911 - One more automobile has been purchased in Archer. Albert Bourelle is the new owner. He has purchased a Buick Runabout.

August 17, 1911 - D. L. Gardner returned from Omaha Monday with a twin cylinder motorcycle which he will use on the mail route.

District Court will convene September 21 and quite a number of jurors are drawn from near here. We do not know if anyone from this neighborhood has been summoned as a witness, we do not know what witness fees are now, but one time Fred G. Boelts was summoned as a witness and in lieu of cash fees, he received a grindstone, a hoe, pitchfork and a garden plow.

Wilfred Lebert has hired out to Carl Fritz Rudolf for the winter.

October 5, 1911 - Rev. Laipply, the converence evangelist, will have charge of the revival meetings at the German Evangelical Church.

October 19, 1911 - There will be English services at the German Evangelical church next Sunday evening.

November 9, 1911 - The young folks of Archer will present a play at the Opera House next Wednesday evening, November 15, entitled Timothy Delano's Courtship. Admission 15¢.

December 28, 1911 - Deacon Gardner is carrying mail as usual. The snow makes no difference to his machine.

Rabbit hunting was the chief occupation of the boys of Archer this past week. Some of the boys came out with clubs and in less than an hour killed a score or more of rabbits.

1912

Fred Haw, Fred G. and Little Rooster Boelts drove to Clarks to take in the fair. Others to go from here were Col. E. Hansen, W. H. Riggs, William O'Connor, Henry Nedrig, W. G. Sampson and Pete Holtz from near Fairview. Fred Haw, after seeing the cooking exhibition, vehemently declared that he could have easily captured a prize with his famous tankage flapjacks, which were invented at the Boelts Brothers Farming and Stock Raising Experiment Farm last winter. Fred wished Wilfred Lebert to come to the fair as soon as he saw the display of old muskets. Wilfred did not go the next day.

Editor's Comment: Deacon gave Sandhill Fred Boelts the middle name of Haw to distinguish him from his cousin Fred G. Little Rooster was a name that he gave to Fred Haw's brother, Henry.)

Fred G. Boelts has built a fine new laundry for his wife. The gas engine and power washer and heating plant will go to make life pleasant for Mrs. Boelts. J. H. Boehl and son John did the carpenter work.

March 28, 1912 - Bill Martin is back again after having spent the winter in Grand Island. Bill says there is no place like Archer.

April 4, 1912 - Will Templin and Jake Weber have been busy repairing bridges and roads. Some of the roads are in bad shape as the floods washed deep ditches in the road beds.

April 11, 1912 - The Ladies' Aid Society will give an apron and bonnet show next Saturday evening.

Sunday morning it is desired that those attending church bring some eggs to be presented to an orphan's home. In the evening Rev. Sanders will exchange pulpits with Rev. Tindall of Central City.

May 23, 1912 - Emil Hansen visited Omaha this week to bring back a handsome autowagon of the Avery model to use at the creamery.

Mrs. Fred Brittin has received her appointment as postmistress and is busy securing the necessary bondsmen. Mrs. Secoy will act as deputy postmistress and Mrs. Warren Riggs as asistant. They all expect to commence duty on June 1.

June 6, 1912 - On the 22nd of June, the Methodist Church arranged a garden party and social to be held on the lawns of E. Hansen's residence. There is to be supper, ice cream, candy and fruit booths. In the evening there will be an illuminated concert given by the Archer Gypsy Choir in appropriate costumes.

Rabbit hunting was the chief occupation of the boys of Archer this past week. Some of the boys came out with clubs and in less than an hour killed a score or more of rabbits.

January 4, 1912 - A literary society will be organized at Archer Friday night this week. All are invited to attend and make it a success.

January 18, 1912 - Honest John Boelts is the campion checker player of the place having defeated any and all comers to a frazzle. A series of games are to be played this week. E. Hansen has put in a monstrous baseburner stove in the store for the comfort of the players and spectators. It required one whole flat car to haul the stove from the factory.

February 8, 1912 - On Thursday of this week, the question of "woman's rights" was debated at the schoolhouse. John Boelts defied the ladies on this occasion. None of the militant suffragettes of Old England took part in the proceedings.

A home talent play is staged at the hall for the 22nd of this month and about thirty of the young folks of Archer will participate. It will be to your interest to come and give the young folks a boost. Prof. Herr Glockenspiel Fitzbobble Fred Haw Boelts has charge of the singing school which is a part of the play.

February 15, 1912 - Mr. A. J. Arrasmith of Palmer came to Archer to the checker game. Mr. Arrasmith went home winner over all he played with. If he comes back next Friday night, he will be beaten according to some of the statements we have heard. John Boelts' side won its second victory last season, and new captains J. G. Zamzow and W. P. Hansen were selected. The ladies have been tendered an invitation to attend these meetings.

February 22, 1912 - Ed McCutcheon was in Omaha a few days this week, for what purpose we do not know.

February, 1912 - John Hancock Boehl and brother-in-law Paul K. Rudolf went to Grand Island on Sunday returning the same day with a fine kit of carpenter tools.

Henry Boehl's household has been brightened up by the purchase of a new piano.

Fred C. Wegner was under the weather with the grippe last week. Adolph Nitzel took care of his business for him during his sickness.

Steve and John Bahensky killed a big wolf on Frank Rudolf's farm last Monday. We cannot account for Henry Nedrig not being there as he is most always present when a wolf is killed.

June 13, 1912 - Under the leadership of Julius and Miss Hulda Zamzow, a fine rehersal of the Archer Gypsy Choir took place at the Methodist Church Tuesday night.

July 11, 1912 - The drowth in this vicinity was broken Monday morning when nine cases of beer were unloaded at the B & M depot.

October 10, 1912 - Mrs. Secoy went to see the dentist and left one of her bicuspids behind.

October 24, 1912 - Still they come! Messrs. Park Grace, Sullivan, and Boelts Brothers are among the owners of new autos.

July 25, 1912 - Fred A. Marsh came into town Wednesday with a good stout team and took out a new mowing machine with a yard of denim to repair the seat of his overalls with. Mowing machines are very hard on pants.

August 1, 1912 - Tuesday evening, July 12, six of the young ladies of Archer met at the home of E. Hansen for the purpose of organizing a club called the C.O.A. The members are namely: Miss Hulda Zamzow, president, Miss Mae Woodward, vice president, Miss Veda Hansen, secretary Treasurer, Miss Arta Hansen, historian, Miss Addie Lehr, sergeant at arms, Miss Dora Wegner, counselor.

Fred G. Boelts came tearing into town very much excited Tuesday afternoon. It was evident that he was not just right. He had one of his wife's shoes partly on and one of his own clean on. He was trying to find a megaphone to announce that a fine boy named Theodore Taft Wilson had arrived at his house that morning. He gave up looking for the megaphone as soon as he saw the Record reporter for he knew then that all would hear the news then through the great issue. The young boy's four sisters are very proud of him as are his parents.

John Boelts and Charles Woodward appeared at the store Tuesday evening and soon the checker game was in full blast, and now every evening the store is crowded with expert checker players.

## 1912

Christopher Columbus Franks finished a very fine cellar for the Rev. Sanders. We cannot give Chris full credit for this work because the two preachers did all the excavating, which is a very strenuous job in this part of the country.

Rev. Willie Sanders made a trip to Fairview in a sled last Sunday.

1912

Big Beolts, Little Rooster, John G., Honest John, and Fred G. were in the city of Archer Saturday. John G. inquired where the parsonage was.

Honest John Boelts is the champion Player of the place having defeated all comers to a frazzle. E. Hansen has put in the New Monitor base burner for the comfort of the players and spectators. It required one whole flat car to haul the stove from the factory.

William O'Connor was batching for a day or two last week while his wife was away visiting. He took all his meals at the Cafe de Frank except one and that he went without.

William Hansen brought up from Omaha an auto truck that is big enough for any pack peddler in the country. It was initiated into the cream route last Thursday. Carl Hansen is chief chauffeur. There are so many autos now that city people are afraid to go into the country, hence the change.

December 26, 1912 - All parties knowing themselves to be indebted to the undersigned firm are hereby requested to call and settle such accounts before Jan. 1, 1913. Also all parties having in their possesion produce checks and due bills by said firm bring them in on or above date. Respectfully, Wegner and Bonness.

January 9, 1913 - The new firm of Bonness and Dippel began business last Saturday and hopes by courtesy and business tact to give their various patrons the same consideration they have hitherto received. Mr. Dippel is a stranger in our midst, but judging by his appearance he is going to make things successful.

February 21, 1913 - The scholars and teacher, Miss Gee, in District No. 43 have planned a basket social for Friday. Come out to the old Stovepoker Schoolhouse again to have a fine time. The windows are in good working order and an exit may be made through any of them if necessary without danger of slivers.

April 30, 1913 - Edward T. Sullivan brought his family to town in a big new Buick. Business as usual was suspended while he was in town. The natives captured the opportunity to examine the car from end to end. It was declard by local professors of compression to be the finest automobile ever in Archer. A special meeting of the cracker box senators took the usual place that evening and the new creation was again discussed. It will be necessary for Mr. Sullivan to come to town again before the subject can be completely threshed out.

1912

W. P. Grace has been investing in some good machinist tools lately. When an automobile gets the appendicitis now it will not be necessary to take it miles away to a repairman as it can be fixed at home. (He does not let any airships stop at his place.)

W. P. Grace is grading his lot on Main Street preparing to build an up to date garage. He expects to install a good power plant and the best of machinery. This is something that auto owners have been looking for and we predict him a good patronage.

The automobile business is on the boom just now. Wm. O'Connor has purchased a pair of goggles and soon will be steering a National. Fred Zlomke and August Zamzow will buy Buicks. Wagner and Bonness, in anticipation of a big rush in gasoline business, will install this week an underground supply tank to be located to be handy for all.

Archer will present to the people of Merrick County a candidate in the person of Frank Q. Tackhammer. Mr. Tackhammer will make the race on the Democratic ticket. For the past ten years "Tack" has been the efficient constable of this township and during that entire period there has not been a single incident of rowdyism, and his record has been such as would indicate that he'd make a good sheriff.

Wilfred Lebert, formerly of the Boelts (Fred and Henry Boelts) and Lebert Company is in the city holding forth at the Franks Cafe. The gun that he has ordered is a Krag Jorgenson 50-110. Later the gun arrived Tuesday afternoon. Two minutes later Wilfred tried it out. The first victim was a gopher. The projectile traveled straight to its mark and all he had to show for it was three claws. Wilfred says that the gun is working perfectly satisfactorily.

Much complaint has been made by the citizens of Archer of the Central City autoists who drive through town at a high rate of speed, who neglect to light their lights no matter how dark it is or how crowded are our city streets. Constable Tackhammer has taken cognizance of this matter and promises the next guilty party will suffer the consequences.

The Independent Order of Watermelon Swipers held the first meeting of the season on Park's roof garden. Plans were made for the fall campaign and it behooves all melon growers to lie on guard. Fido's teeth should be filed sharp and a big load should be put in the old army musket. Bill Nitzel has a plan for catching all melon cooners and it may well pay to look at. It is simply a tomato can and a long string. Ask him about it. (Do any of you remember Mr. Pancake who raised fine watermelons in the thirties?)

May 29, 1913 - M. L. Hastings of Central City was up here delivering sewing machines. Business was good.

The firm of Bonness and Dippel consisting of Edward Israel Dippel and Paul Pete Bonness have contracts for 5 loads of potatoes. These will be shortly on track and the people of Archer will undoubtedly have plenty to eat this winter.

October 10, 1913 - Constable Frank R. Riggs was in town Saturday engaging deputies to patrol the city on Halloween night which will soon be here.

November 3, 1913 - Cort Woodward who is attending Central City High School came out on the freight Saturday. He was bruised, battered, and dented as a result of playing fast football at Aurora the day before.

The dance last Friday Eve was not very well attended and as a result there will be no dance for several weeks. Those present had a very enjoyable time. hose out from Central City were Owen Ayres and Herb McCullough and their lady friends.

## 1913

Although not a resident of Midland Township, O. J. McCullough had on exhibit a number of his best Poland Chinas and under agricultural display presented forty ears of choice yellow corn grown on his farm on Prairie Island.

Mr. Tackhammer's stove burnt so fiercely Saturday evening that it was necessary to put a tub over one chimney and a box over the other.

The big wolf hunt will take place on Wednesday, January 25th, beginning at the borders of the big square at 10 o'clock. The territory is 5 miles square, the center being on the section west of the Baptist Church. Captains have been appointed as follows: Herman Kuck north of the west line, Albert Brunk south half of the west line; Harrison Wiser west half of north line; Guy Widman east half of south line; Deck Rice north half of east line; Frank Tackhammer east half of north line; Henry Nedrig west half of north line. Let everyone start promptly at the appointed time. Everybody, make good use of their telephones to remind others of the hunt. Do so the evening before. It is desired that no rifles be used as they are too dangerous. The promoters of the hunt are confident that a good catch will be made if a big crowd turns out.

Emil Hansen fell into the pond while putting up ice last Tuesday. The first thing he did after falling in was to get wet.

November, 1913 - Emil Hansen is busy filling up his lots north of Zamzow Brothers' Implement Shop preparatory to erecting a fine brick store building. Work will not begin on the building until spring.

March 30, 1914 - Monkey J. Boehl, son of Henry J. Boehl and brother Johnny Jump Up Boehl has accepted a position of the Jimmy Johnston Hay Baling and Corn Shelling Corporation.

Chris Franks who for twenty five years has been engaged in the livery and dray business and who has always farmed considerable on the side will sell, Monday March 30, at public auction all his horses, cattle, machinery, etc. Chris has some extra fine horses, some number one milk cows that will be offered for sale at that time. Colonel Shelton will cry the sale and William O'Connor will act as clerk.

M. L. Hastings sold another piano here this week. W. H. Riggs is the new owner.

Chris Franks is acting as foreman in a gang that is building a celler under Bonness and Dippel's Store.

John Kamerer has a fine bed of horse radish on the spot where Tack's horse fell into the well.

## 1914

Jimmie Johnston and Julius Schmaltz are getting their cane mill in readiness for the season's work. George Lindgren's cane will be put through the mill first. George is very happy to think he has such a fine crop of sorghum just now when sugar is high.

Ed Wegner says he intends to take a thorough course in Italian. He is losing business every day because he cannot understand what the section men want when they come to the store. Monk Boehl is generally called in to act as interpreter.

Thadrick Whaley announced Monday morning that 1500 Germans were killed the day before in the war. He estimated that 900 of them were Zamzows and the rest Wegners.

R. R. Burns reported that there was a load of chickens to go west on the frieght. The company sent a chicken car up on the freight but it was found that it was the Aid Society that was going to Palmer. The superintendent advised him hereafter designate such as hens.

Bill O'Connor loaded his baseball team, the "Peanuts" into his car Monday and went down to Chapman where they played the Chapman "Tigers" and sad to relate they were defeated by

a score of 34 to 25, but the defeat was made easy for the boys by the fine treatment received from the Chapman fans. The Peanuts were treated to ice cream and watermelon and also received ½ of the gate receipts, which amounted to 13¢ each. Ty Cobb (Elmer Bonness) got a two base hit and has grown about a foot since the game.

1916

Prof. Patrick Dr. Knolls has sold his moving pictures show to James Sporer and Goerge Lindgren, who have taken charge and are giving a big show every Saturday night. Special features will be given on next Saturday evening consisting of buck and wing dancing and an exhibition of the famous three ring trick.

Up to the present time it has not been decided definitely who was the owner of the dead horse that was found in the main entrance to Bonness and Dippel's store.

Frank Wagner returned from Burwell Tuesday. He said the wind blew so hard the day before that it was impossible for an auto to run against it. That's nothing, we saw Floyd Harter in a car the other day that wouldn't even run with the wind.

# CHILD LABOR

In the good old days, kids had to earn their keep. I remember when my three older sisters had to arm themselves with corn knives and go out into the cornfields to chop off sunflowers and cockleburs. In those days there were no chemicals to keep the weeds down.

The boys and girls who milked cows contributed economically. The cream which the parents sold helped pay for the groceries and other small needs. Milking was not the end of the dairy work done in the home. The eight or nine year olds had to feed milk in buckets to the calves. The calves generally were cantankerous creatures who tried their best to upset the buckets. The older girls had the job of washing the separators, the hand cranked machines, which separted the cream from the milk. The children also had the job of churning the butter. It sometimes took a long time for the butter to come.

The children fed and watered the chickens and gathered the eggs. Some hens were in the brooding stage and thought of the eggs beneath them as a future family. They would be belligerent if disturbed. There was a science for getting the eggs without being pecked. The gatherer lifted the hens by their tail feathers just high enough to remove the eggs from under them.

Corn cobs were one of the big sources of heat. Every afternoon the children had to bring in enough cobs to supply the cooking fuel for the next day. It wasn't so bad to bring in the cobs from the pile made by the corn sheller, but it was very irksome to bring in the cobs that the pigs had shelled when they ate. It was a dirty smelly job and most of the time the pigs made themselves objectionable.

On wash days the children had to carry in buckets of water to fill the reservoir and the wash boiler.

Our father did not believe in waste. Some lovely grass was growing by the road. He thought it was a good idea for the children to herd the cattle

so they could feed there. I hated herding cattle. It might have been a pleasant job, but as the old saying goes, "Father pastures look greener." The cattle invariably headed for the other side of the road.

The teen agers operated horse powered grain binders and hay and alfalfa mowers. That wasn't so bad, but stacking hay was an ordeal. Our father spread the hay evenly on top of the stack. One girl operated the sweep and another drove the stacker team. Sometimes she stopped the horses short and the hay fell in front of the stack. Sometimes she drove the team too far and the hay fell on the other side. These errors sorely tested our father's patience.

I sometimes think, irksome as the children's work was in those days, it would be better if the children had more responsibilities like those today. When children are chopping cockleburs and churning butter, they have less time to get into mischief and they would realize that it takes a lot of hard work and organizing to support a family.

Helen Boelts.

# THRESHING IN THE GAY NINETIES

Anton Hummel, patriarch of the Hummel family, liked labor saving machinery. He became the proud owner of a horse powered threshing machine soon after its invention.

Because these machines were costly often a group of farmers made a joint purchase. Fred Marsh in his "According to my Tell" of February 20, 1958, relates how his father, William Marsh, J. M. Kyes, and James Donaldson owned one together.

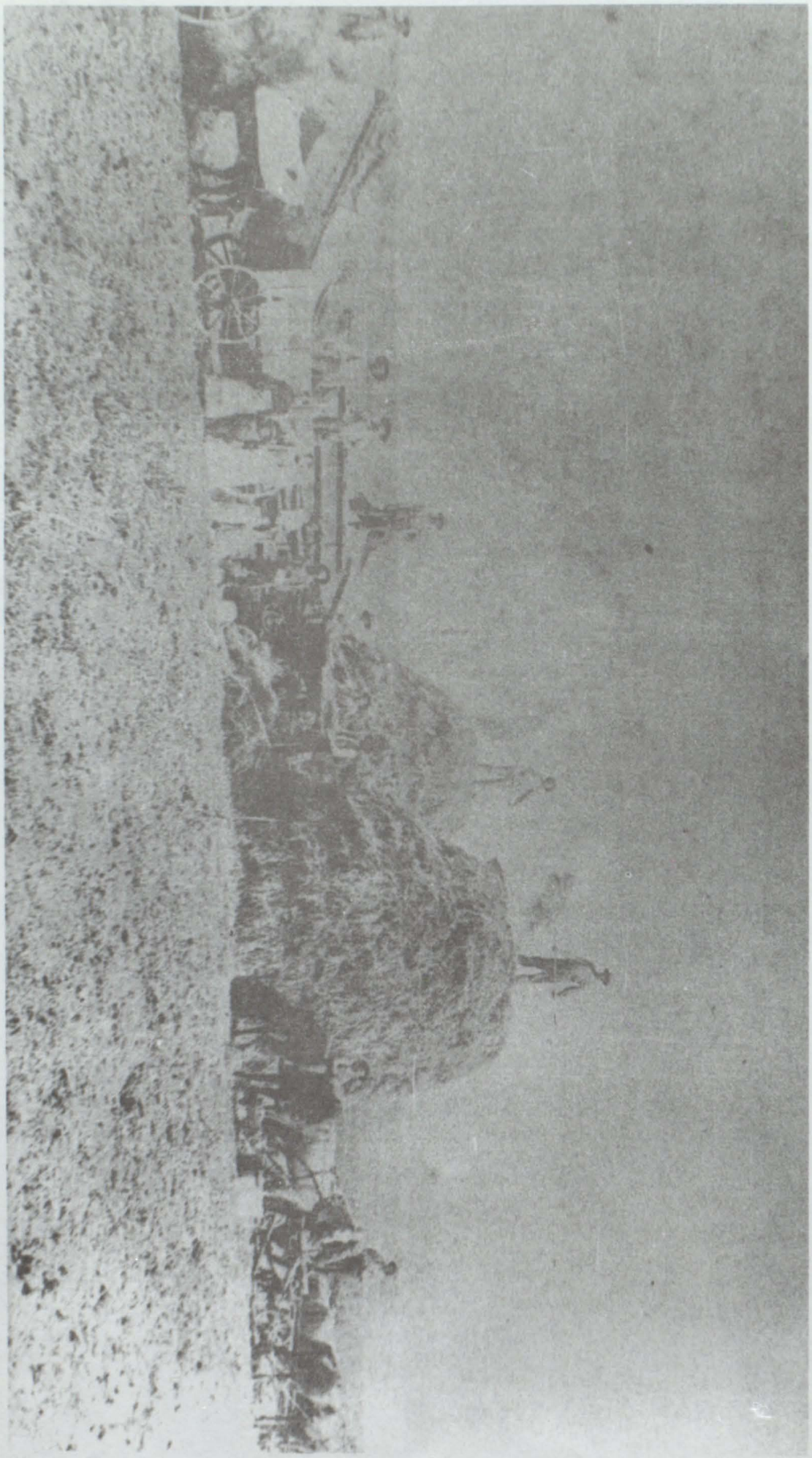
The invention of the threshing machine followed the invention of the self binder. In the same article as the story of his threshing machine, Mr. Marsh informs us that his father and Mrs. Christina Nitzel, Lloyed Nitzel's grandmother,owned a self binder in partnership.

Before the self binder and threshing machine, the farmers had to cut their grain by hand with scythes or cradles and then they had to flail it to separate the grain from the straw.

Mrs. Nitzel's and Mr. Marsh's self binder tied the bundles with twine. The first self binders bound the sheaves with wire. This proved to be dangerous and impractical because cattle died from swallowing pieces of wire. Then only twine was used.

Wheat was always stacked when it was harvested and was threshed in the fall. The crew and machinery had to be well organized. The thresher was parked close to the stacks of grain. There was a man on the stack who pitched bundles to a man at the foot of the stack. Two men below were armed with knives with which they cut the twine. The men then fed the sheaves into the thresher. The horses provided the power to make the machine go. They were hitched to a circular treadmill and set the thresher in motion. The inner workings of the thresher separated the grain from the straw. The grain was routed to a wagon and the straw was routed to a blower which eventually became a straw stack. The grain was either hauled to market or to a grain bin for storage.

Frances Gosnell Shelton, not of Midland Township, but of Prairie Creek, remembered seeing a horse powered threshing machine when she was a little girl. "I felt so sorry for those poor horses when they had to go around in circles for such a long time," she said.

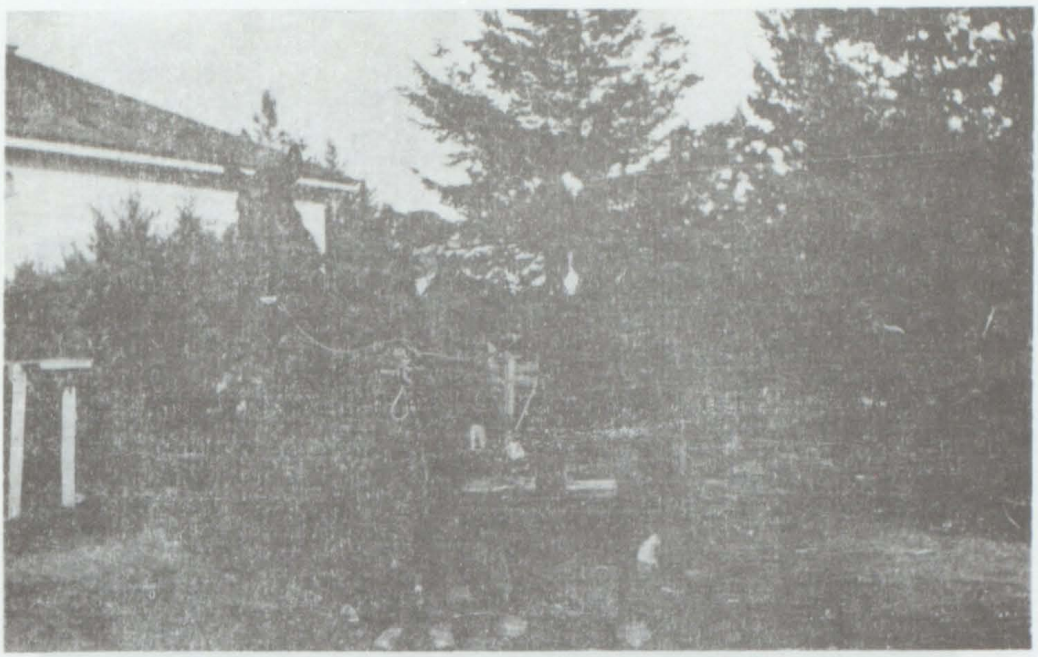


HORSE POWER THRESHING MACHINE

Jake Weber's
threshing
machine

Jake Weber's
road grader

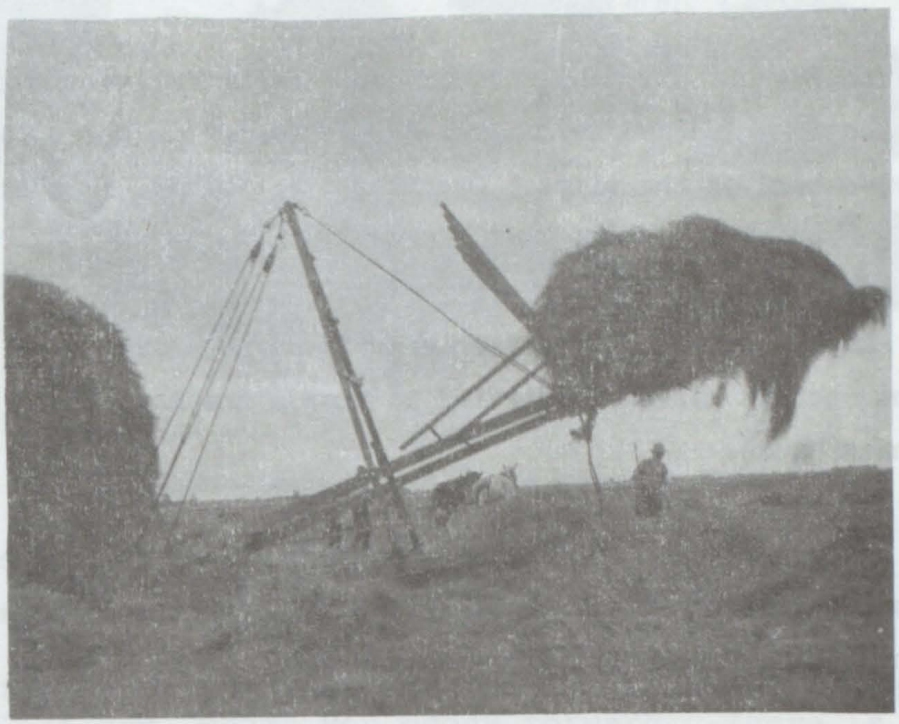
A Midland Farmer Feeding His Cattle.



Theodore Swartout and his fine team of horses.

Mr. Swartout operating his go-devil. If you were a lady or gentleman, you called it a "go-dig".

Some Young ladies raking hay.



STACKING HAY

# SOME OLD CARS

Some of the early automobiles caused their owners problems. Those which have survived to this day were probably more satisfactory than the Overlands, Reos, Maxwells and other more or less forgotten makes.

Fred G. Boelts owned a Maxwell with a temperamental front wheel. As a result of a sprung axle, the front right wheel now and then came off and rolled into the ditch.

Russ Kyes, according to his son Marion, owned a car called a Nyberg. It was a big machine which had to be jacked up when not in use because its weight was too hard on the tires. One time it developed a broken axle on the mile north of the District 14 school.

The Nyberg auto must not have gained widespread popularity. I had never heard of one before Marion identified it from a snapshot taken in front of the Brannan house.

I searched through all the Central City Public Library antique car books and found nothing about it. I then searched through the antique car books in the Grand Island Public Library with no better luck.

I remembered that my brother-in-law, Ralph Farrall of Grand Island, had a collection of old car books. I looked through several of them and was becoming discouraged and was wondering if Marion had been mistaken. Then I found it. In one of Ralph's books there was a long list of cars which had been made in the United States. The Nyberg was among them.

The Crow-Elkhart, another little known car was seen on the unimproved roads of Midland Township. (They were all unimproved then.) It belonged to Ray and Lawrence Nitzel who lived in a house in the field just northwest of Gardner School. It caused the Nitzel brothers some problems and they were unsuccessful in their attempts to repair it. They took it to a garage which bought it and repaired it. It was then sold to Luther Charron, Sr. who lived two miles north of Gardner School. He proudly drove it past the school and his children very proudly boasted, "There's Daddy in the Crow."

**Two lively youngsters—Martha Retzlaff and her immaculate Model A Ford.**

Miss Retzlaff and Model A
From the Central City Republican Nonpareil

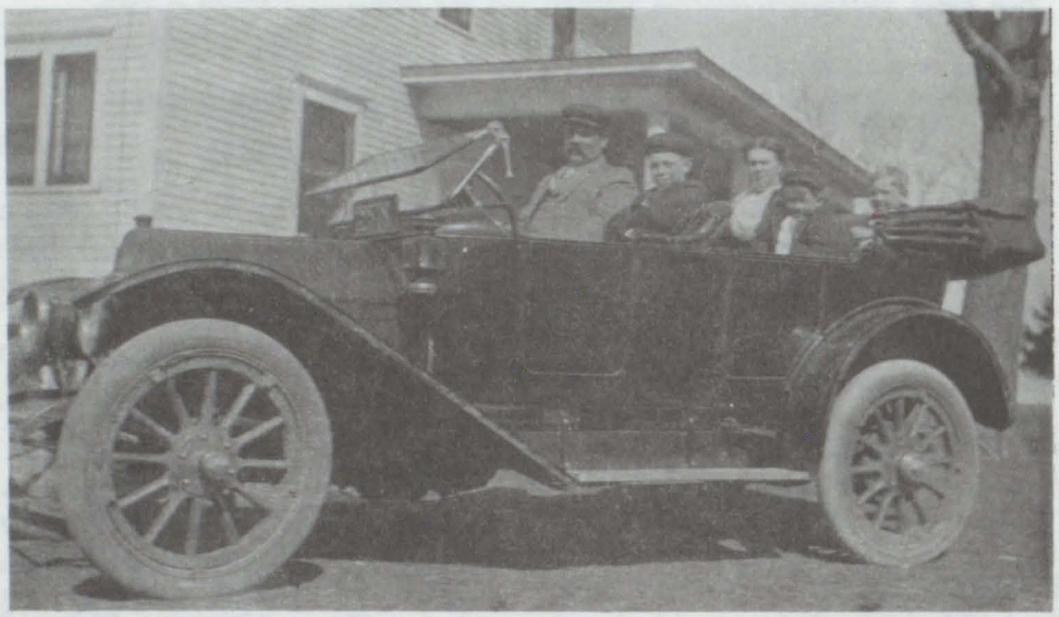
Turn the key. The starter begins to crank. There is an immediate jolt and, wham, you nudge forward. There is a low rumble--a sound like a powerful lawn mower. And, the floor of the car vibrates and the rhythm of the engine. Put in the clutch, put her in gear, move the throttle on the right side of the steering column and back-off the manual spark advance on the left side and you are on your way. It handles well at 35. It'll get up to 50, but really rattles at that speed. It gets 25 to 28 miles per gallon. And for local driving it works swell. It's a 1930 Ford Model A owned by Martha Retzlaff of Archer.

Ford stopped making Model A's a few years after Miss Retzlaff bought hers. She and her mother bought it new for $610 in 1930. Miss Retzlaff has driven it back and forth to Central City and it has sat out in all kinds of weather.

The car is all original. She has the original bulb lights--not the sealed beam type headlights. The seats have always been kept covered and they look like fine new living room furniture. It's only a two seater, but you can squeeze in three in a pinch. There's a shade that pulls down over the back window, little handi-pockets in the doors and a radiator gadget with a thermometer in it to tell how hot the water in the radiator is.

When asked why she has kept the car so long, she repied, At first it was a necessity to keep it. Then I really got attached to it...couldn't see that others were any better. Then it became a novelty, it became sort of fun to have. Everybody knows me by my car."

John Mueller and John Greer in a pick-up of the 1920's.



Russ Kyes proudly poses in his Nyberg with his son, Howard, in the front seat. His wife, Belle, and sons Donald and Dean are in the back seat.

ARCHER under WATER--1905
East side of Main Street (Carroll Street)
before Archer's Heyday.--

# 1905 ARCHER FLOOD FUN.

As the year 1904 merged into time and blended with its successor, James A.Michener might have described that area encompassing Archer, Nebraska as a surface upon planet Earth which Our Master had intended to be flat but ravages of the ages, rain, snow, wind, freezing, thawing, gnawing, biting, disintegrating, and eroding left behind a few convex and concave scars manifested by the gradual evaporation and decline of the slow moving, muddy water in that small stream, so properly named Prairie Creek, which had churned the land so savagely but which had also deposited deep, fertile soil for the benefit of mankind.

Man has notoriously construed his dream settlement upon land near water's edge, be it on the banks of streams or the shores of lakes or seas, wherever the land was adeqately secure for a solid foundation. Early settlers of Merrick County proved to be no exception. They tried to build as close to the creek as visible nature signs would allow. With the passing of time they discovered, too late perhaps that their prized possessions had been constructed a bit too close to that ordinary unpretentious trickle of water, so warm and quiet summer, fall and winter but so very cold, wild and destructive in the spring.

On that bleak and stormy morning in the spring of 1905, the concave scars of erosion were most definitely observed between the Hansen-Templin General store southward toward the Park Grace Garage where there remained what was once the path of an untamed, moving body of water but at the present point in time merely a slight depression about three to four feet below the higher ground upon which stood the two general stores, the town hall, drug store, grain elevator, Archer Bank, Methodist Church, Park Grace Garage and Wagner's Hardware Store.

The melting snows had penetrated to a depth of near saturation when the skies opened and the rains came, and oh, how it did pour down. They continued endlessly and relentlessy to the stage of ominously threatening a flood such

as they experienced in years past. The sinister rising water reflected great apprehension in the faces of all town folk. For a while it seemed to have leveled off when some foundations became partially inundated and the residents envisioned just another scare, perhaps. But there was no let up. The waters of Prairie Creek had not yet crested and the countryside and village alike could be offered no preference as to which should be mired less deeply in the unwelcome misery of it all.

It was the adventurous spirit of such locals as Deacon Gardner, Harry Morse, Paul Bonness, Pat Eckhoff, Carl Hansen, Leonard Templin, Leon McKendry, Archie McKendry, Frank Sampson, and Frank Wagner, who partially challenged the high waters and likened it to a source of real fun. Deacon utilized his old battered wooden stock watering tank as a boat into which he unloaded three happy children, George Lehr, Jessie and Louise Sampson who had become as curious and enthusiastic as their elders had become adventurous. Harry and Frank steadied the makeshift craft as they waded, sometimes waist deep and more while the three kids were aglow with excitement. But there were some other town folk who were not to be outdone. Paul, Frank, Pat, and the two Wilson boys, with the boyish help of Leon and Archie, concocted the crazy idea of fashioning three rafts, each pieced together with abandonedold telephone poles lashed with wire and rope upon which they placed an old delapidated cast-off door from a grain car borrowed or filched from the Burlington Railroad Company.

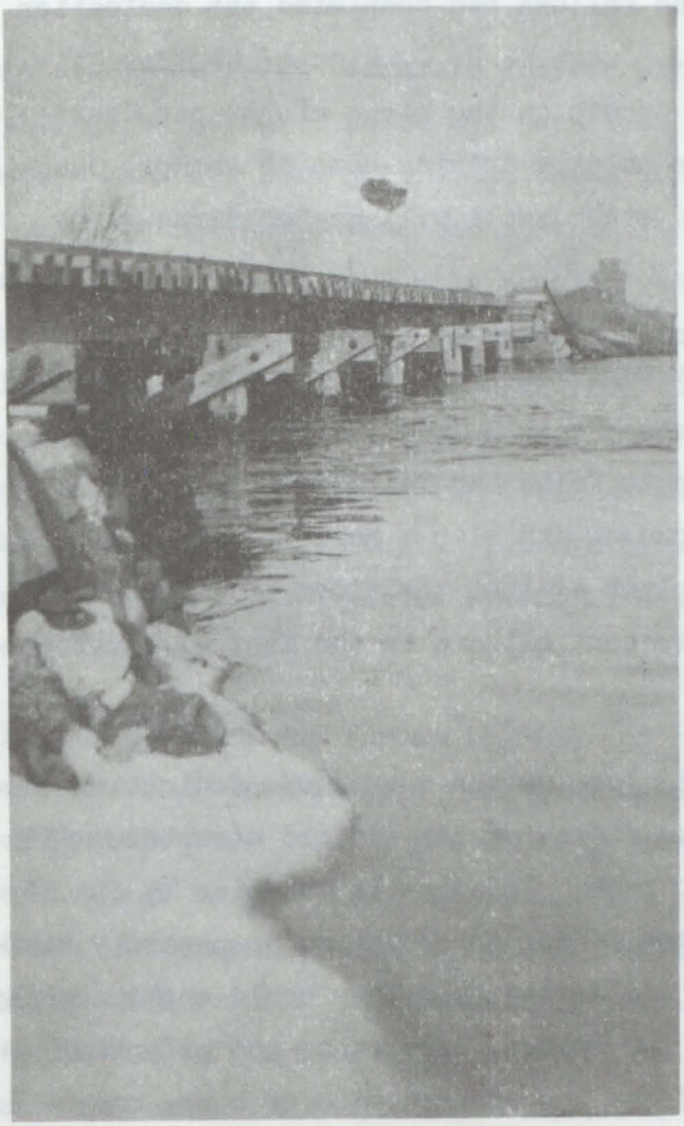
Most of the men had boarded their respective crafts in the flotilla when Mrs. Frank Wagner, followed closely by Jessie and Alice Templin appeared on the scene. They, too, gleefully boarded the last rafts to embark on the sea-like voyage, the likes of which several had never before experienced. Needless to say, the men folk were quite shocked at the seemingly bold attidude of the women, each in full dress, with plumed hats, for it was very obvious that each had ventured out from the Sunday morning church services. As the last raft was cut loose from its mooring, Roy Hudson appeared on his beautiful white horse which cautiously felt its way as it waded into the ever deepening water as in somewhat as would a kitten or small chicken shying away from any similarilty of first experience wetness. As he came nearer to the laughing happy sailors and would-be sailors, a topless buggy

drawn by one horse and carrying Mr. and Mrs. E. W. Lehr suddenly appeared between the two general stores. This sudden action motivated Roy's mount to panic. As the animal raised his frightened frame, the unexpected surprise separated Roy from saddle and he met the muddy water with a comical slapstick splash resulting in nothing more than soiled clothes but with a crushing humiliation. The horse saw the advantage of his situation and he bolted to warmer and drier climes, leaving the dripping, unhappy Roy to dry off the best he could before the warm fire of Elijah and Margaret McKendry.

The Lehr horse showed no signs of being excited during the brief interlude as it proceeded south into the shallow water in front of the Hansen-Templin Store. The occupants seemed to be enjoying their partly submerged adventure when quite unexpectedly their land vehicle encountered a soft bit of road or actually wheeled its way into a slight depression which found themselves sitting in about six inches of water. There may be some people who can rise to the occasion more quickly than they did, but to history, to the date of this writing, has not recorded such. Like a cat springing from danger, they found themselves sitting atop the back of the buggy seat so their feet, not their bottoms, were dangling in the water. It wasn't funny to them, but the chain of events had made it seems so and they laughed with others in spite of themselves. Such contagious laughter and humerous action combined to amuse those folks on the boardwalk of the general store and they all enjoyed a good, old time belly laugh.

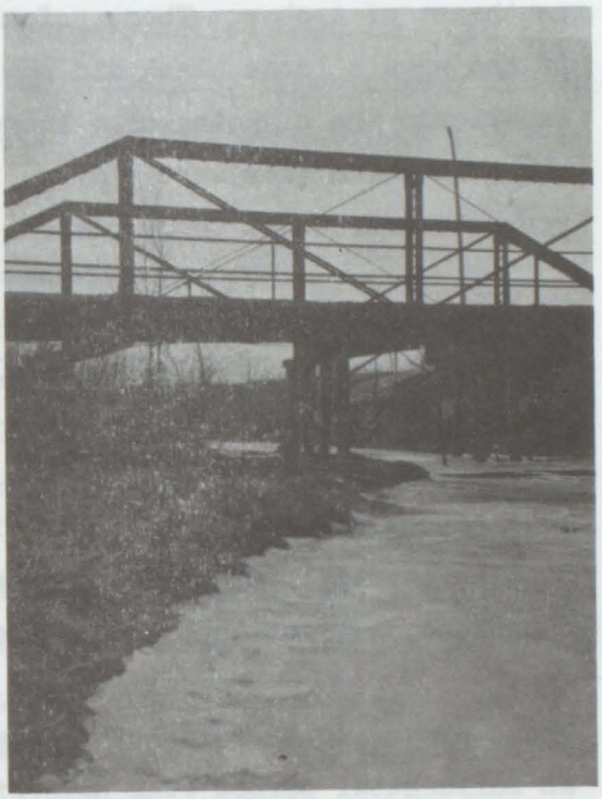
There is no doubt that the high water caused considerable damage, but inthis point in time there was a little respite of fun and laughter triggered by Deacon Gardner, Harry Morse, and Frank Sampson.

Ray U. Morse
Printed in Central City Republican
Nonpareil, April 24, 1980



Above--Old Railroad Bridge

Below--New Iron Bridge
Built 1913 or 1914



# ARCHER'S NEW BRIDGE

by Ray U. Morse

The tumult and the shouting of the entire Merrick County populace had died on April 24, 1913. The decrepit old county courthouse had finally been replaced. The Independent Order of Odd Fellows had completed the dedication of the new building in Central City. Judge W. H. C. Rice of Central City had finished his notable dedication speech on the steps of the new Courthouse. Farmers and townspeople were happily driving home to Archer, Chapman, Worms, Palmer, Silver Creek and other small villages or farms along the way.

Those folks living in Archer or northwest were required to cross an age-old wooden structure called a bridge across Prairie Creek, a short distance southeast of Archer. Those unfortunate folks had learned to be surprised if and when a loose plank did not come up and slap a horse on the nose or experience the slapping of a loose plank against the floor of a buggy or wagon in which they were riding. Frequent slivers in the feet of barefoot youngsters were not too uncommon.

On the late evening of April 24, 1913, one of the courthouse dedication committee crossed the bridge and spelled finis for the sad old structure. It has been said that, "The best way to repudiate a law is to abide by it; it will break its own back." By the same token, those who so desperately wanted a new bridge were told to use it and do the best they could until someday some influential person would cross the bridge, experience the potential dangers of its continuous use, and force the construction of a new one.

Those proved to be words of wisdom, or for on that same evening of April 24, an influential person (the name of whom I have been unable to learn; it may have been Fred Marsh.) drove over that old that old relic. Midway across one of the many loose planks came up and slapped the nose of his powering force, a young and frisky mare. It was her first experience of that kind and she failed to appreciate it. She reared, turned, and almost snapped the shafts. The notable one tumbled out and into a multi-point landing, only to gain a great many painful slivers in his hands. His dignity suffered

the most, however. That landing was heard literally throughout the Archer area. It wasn't long thereafter that a new steel bridge was assured. By August of that year, the money had been appropriated, the steel had been fabricated and all was in readiness to assemble what is now referred to as the iron brige over Prairie Creek.

As nearly as I can learn all trained steel workers were strangers to the village of Archer. There may have been a few unskilled men from there. I don't know for sure just where these workers laid the heads of their tired bodies each night during the onstruction of the welcome new structure. They may have stayed in the Chris Franks Hotel or perhaps they roomed with John and Emma Boelts in their farmhouse nearby. I do know that they slipped their feet under Emma's table where she fed them morning, noon, and night for the duration. If they ate like I know Emma fed her friends and hired hands, they did enjoy food fit for a king with no end to the quantity that each one may have wished to "put away". You can have your prime rib, filet mignon or whatever. I would have placed myself at her table in preference to any I have experienced.

It was indeed a day for dedication and celebration when those bridge builders diverted traffic from that antiquated link between the east and west bank of Prairie Creek to the new pride of Merrick County. That event was almost equivalent to the elaborate dedication in Central City only five months before. In some manner of speaking, the bridge was of much greater immediate value than the new courthouse. Of course, the latter housed the records, their hall of justice and county offices, but the bridge seemed to have more material value to many. After all, one could see it, walk upon it, and cross from one side to the other. They could haul their crops across it. They could drive across it on Saturday night when everybody came to town to visit old friends. The scale of value and popularity was always tipped in favor of the bridge.

Written by Ray U. Morse,
grandson of Elijah McKendry,
resident of early Archer.
Printed in C.C. Republican Nonpareil
Sept. 14, 1980

# ARCHER'S PAST

Does anyone like trivia?

How did Archer get its name?

Central City claims to be the pump irrigation center of the world. The Archer area claims the first usable well. Where was this located and who was the irrigater?

Where was the first area bridge over Prairie Creek?

Name the Woman's Lodge in Archer during the Roaring Twenties.

An early dispute at the dance hall in Archer was settled by weapons. Name the weapons.

Where was Fairview Church's original site?

Anyone else have a trivia question?

--Compiled by Hubert Boelts

**Which former Archer area resident had three Boelts sisters for teachers?**

**--Added by Helen Boelts.**

These pictures of my Brothers, DEAK, with Rural Free Delivery Insignia on cap, and BEN, known as the "Bowler Dust Scorcher," were taken by Lee McKendry at Archer, Nebraska, February 13th, 1910.

The previous day, Ben received an urgent call from Chris Franks to referee his "National" Horse Shoe Pitching Contest at Palmer, Nebraska.

Ben hopped in the saddle and, although his engine immediately started purring as softly as a rock crusher, the bike wouldn't budge with the clutch thrown in.

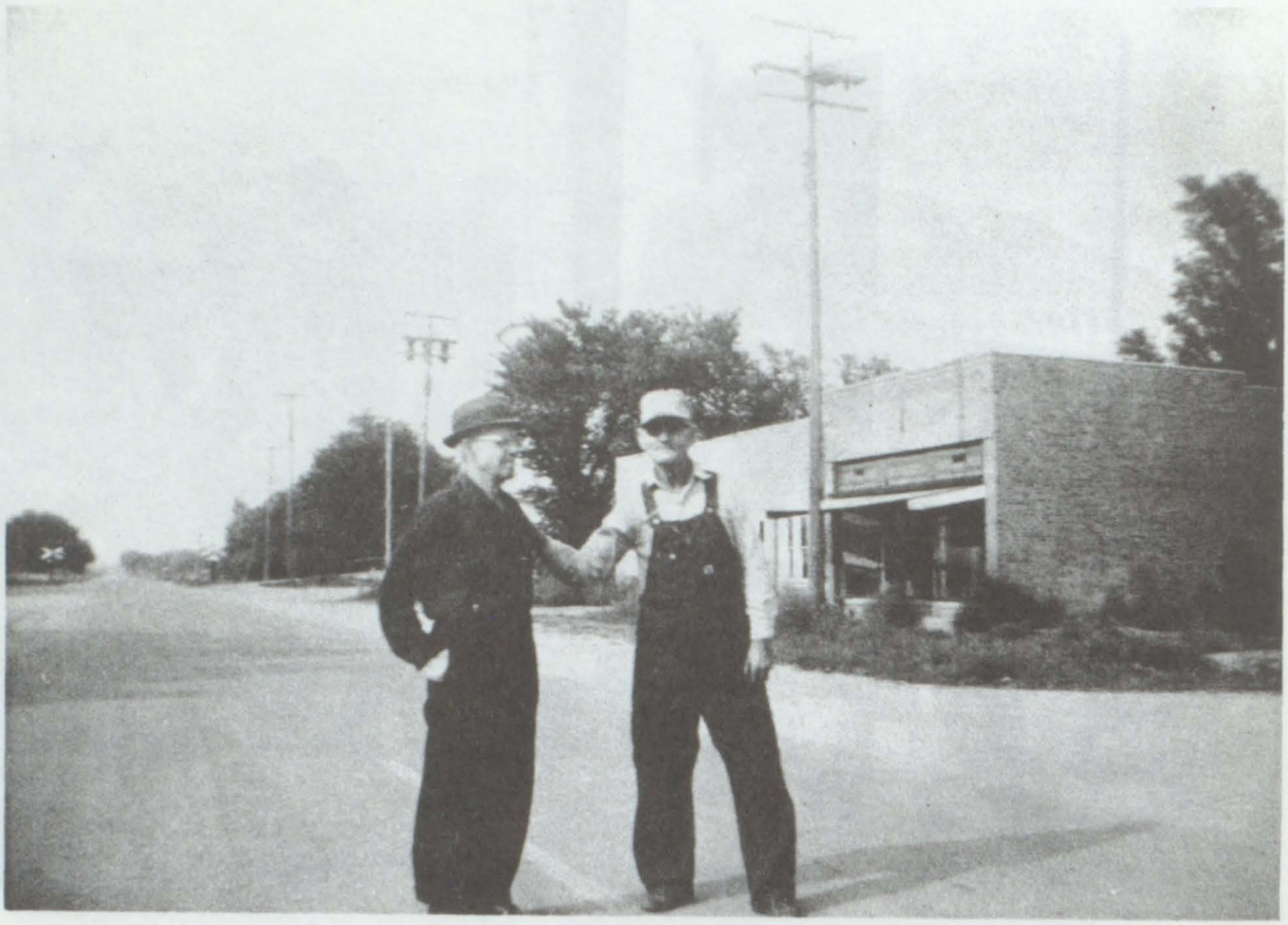
The Town's Mechanical Engineer, Phocian Hansen, was hurriedly summoned for consultation and, in less than ten minutes, the exact source of failure was spotted --- the drive belt was missing.

Fortunately, Chris won the Tournament, by a leaner, retaining title to the Championship Belt with ornaments, weighing altogether about sixty pounds.

In passing, I must not overlook mentioning the very high regard in which Brother Deacon held all the wonderful patrons of his mail route, and the many pleasant visits each trip at the roadside mail box.

Montrose, California,
December 25, 1967.

RICHARD N. GARDNER



Traffic Director, Harry Foglond, prevented Loren Brannan from entering high-speed lane of densely-traveled Aksarben Freeway through the Main Street of my home town, Archer, Nebraska, during the rush hour of September 7, 1967.

Pressed for comments on this lightning action, Officer Foglond modestly replied: "Unless I happen to be shootin' pool, snooker, or tiddly-winks, at such critical moments, those meandering jaywalkers of Central City just don't get past the white center line! On this particular hair-raising occasion, I gave Mr. Brannan a good stiff lecture on safety!"

Photo by Pat Gardner of 180 Peabody Street, San Francisco, 94134.

And, speaking of my notorious nephew, Pat Gardner, pal of those mammoth Southern Pacific Diesel Locomotives at San Francisco: He received a large free case of Dog Food as result of "preference" shown by his pooch, Flip, from a dozen competitive brands placed in a row. Someone made the snide remark that Pat forcibly shoved Flip's nose right down into the brand known to be winner. When confronted about this, Pat only blinked and giggled.

Montrose, California,
December 25, 1967.

Richard M. Gardner

# TALES OF ARCHER'S PAST

by Hubert Boelts

A drifter stopped in the area and helped himself to one of the settler's horses. Needless to say, this did not go over big with the owner, so he promptly mounted up, ran the man down, threw a rope around his neck and dragged him to his happy hunting ground. As legend has it, no more horse stealing in these parts.

Bill Holtorf was a great story teller of the early days. One never missed a chance to listen to him. He told of the time when the Wegner family came west. Some well meaning person in Omaha told them if they crossed the Platte,"Do not stop until you have crossed Prairie Creek. The alkali will kill your cattle." I don't know why the Holtorfs settled where they did, but they could have been plain tired of going on or thought that Silver Creek was Prairie Creek. These stories are true but may have been changed a bit to suit the story teller.

Social life depended mainly on the churches and schools in the early days. Four of these churches are gone--the old German Methodist Church to the West, Prairie Creek Baptist to the South, the Archer Methodist Church in town, and the community Friends to the Northeast. Archer Zion Methodist, formerly the Evangelical and later the E.U.B. to the West and Fairview Methodist to the Northeast are active and strong.

The schools are all gone but memories live on, especially the names. People had trouble remembering the district numbers of the neighboring schools so they gave them some colorful names such as Frog Pond, Hell's Half Acre, and Stovepoker. Gardner, Comstock, and Durst were named for the family nearest the school. Now Gardner is not an unusual name but the boys it was named for were. They made Tom Sawyer, Huckleberry Finn and the Katzenjammer Kids look like pussy cats.

Stovepoker got its name when three or four young dudes got into Grampa's corn squeezins. They proceeded to a literary or some such gathering. They were having a high time but no one else was. Some old boy sitting close to the stove picked up the stovepoker and impressed on those characters that they were not welcome. Story has it that the same stovepoker was used later to settle an argument at a school board meeting.

Satan must have spread some seed out over the prairie because country school boys could think up more deviltry than you could shake a stick at. You had to be tough to be one of the bunch. From experience I know. As a beginner one deal in the process to get tough was to take a stick, stir up a hive of bees and then run like heck. If you cried when you were stung, you were a chicken so you carried on with a stick and a grin and tears running down your cheeks! Then there was running the gauntlet. Sticks were used. The purpose of this was to toughen up the bottoms so a guy could take whippings from a teacher and come up smiling. Can you imagine anything more frustrating for a teacher?

If one did not shape up he was branded as a sissy. Those older slugs would take the poor kid out behind the horsebarn or the outhouse and nail his suspenders to the wall.

If that did not do the trick, the branded guy had only one alternative--stay as close to the teacher as possible and only go to the outdoor facility when the others were in the classroom. That was really a torture. In a short time the big percentage came around. The beginners with a big brother had a definite advantage.

Now these little demons had more than one motive. They waited for a year when a beginning teacher was hired. They would sit in their seats the first day with innocent looks on their faces. (This was also a practical deal.) Then they would feed this unsuspecting young thing with a line that was out of this world--about the nice things the last year teacher let them do, the extended recesses, friends sitting together, no homework. The purpose of this maneuver was to boggle her mind and break down the nervous system. Soon the little monsters had the upper hand.

Unless she could match them in being tough, the cause would soon be lost. Then learning came to a standstill. Her only alternative was to do the best she could to keep her sanity and make eyes at the eligible bachelors in the neighborhood and hope that one would ask for her hand in marriage.

Thus came the name of Hell's Half Acre.

There was another kind of schoolmarm. She would come the first day armed with a razor strap, a piece of harness tug, or a piece of broken furniture. She would pick up the weapon and challenge anyone in the room to a duel. Yardstocks wouldn't stand the pressure. That was one quiet schoolroom. She also had periscope and x-ray eyes. She saw all, believe me. This kind of teacher drew an extra $20 a month.

Frog Pond was named for its location. There had to be a little Butt or two whipped there. (That was no joke.) The Gagles and the Holtorfs got whipped also.

Another thing country kids learned early was not to rat on anyone at home. Your time would come. If word got around that one got out of line at school, he would get a whipping at home.

Pop would come home for supper, tired, sweaty, and feeling mean and hungry. He had either been pitching manure, digging post holes, or some other demanding chore. Mom would say, "Do you know what your child did in school today?" Pop couldn't care less. Mom would bring up the subject several times during the meal. As he got up from the table to milk the cows and slop the hogs, she would again say, "Please do something about your young one." By that time, the guilty one knew what was coming, so the tough guy strategy had to be changed from a toughy to a poor weak child. The tears would flow and the sobbing would increase. "Boo hoo, I won't do anything like that again, Father." Sometimes this would soften things up a bit, but by this time the old boy had his razor strap in hand and was in an extremely bad mood. Those episodes took the tattling right out of you.

# FUTURE ARCHER

Think of Archer as a metropolis. Every city of any size has a bypass or beltline around it.

Can you use your imagination and take a trip with us reading the signs and arteries that lead off this road? Also read the billboards. Start at the community park heading on the old high school speedway. To the left of the three mile corner is Frazier's Ridge. To the South is the site of "Tater" Anderson's farm and the first usable irrigation well in the area. Turn right and you are on the Ormsby Road heading toward Central City, the old county seat, Irishtown and Lone Tree Monument. Next is Kiser Street. Then there's Cotton Wagner Avenue, Mericle and Held Road and the site of the Rankin Farm.

An arrow points to Stander Brink Street, Yeik Bend Golf Course and Whitmore Park. There are also Brannan Avenue, Fieselman Street, Foulkland Children's Park and Rawlings Exotic Bird and Animal Park. Go on to Hummel's little Pennsylvania Retreat.

Arrow to Clarks.

Peters' Subdivision and Willeman's Dairy and Pony Farm--Monument--Fairview Church. Johnson Street and Ferris Old Car and Farm Equipment Museum. Schank's Mink Ranch, Holtz Rise Road, Loup River Pass, Elaine's Fine Foods.

North Midland News, Swampy Marshland, Nitzel Lake, Boelts Crop Experiment Station, Old Kyes Prairie Creek Crossing, the first bridge across Prairie Creek, old Kyes service station location. Leonard Kyes Regional Airport, Sullivan Street and McCutcheon Lane.

Mooreland Subdivision, Old Van Peltville, Gilmont Game Farm, Eckert Road, Stovepoker Hill, Schwartz Feed Yards, Fogland Stables, Blauhorn Heights, Nedrig Hunting and Fishing School, Rudolf Lane, Suck Woods.

Arrow pointing to Palmer.

Weller Subdivision, Retzlaff Road, Stalker Speedway, Wegner Meadows, Wegner Music Hall, Eckles Car Testing--Proceed with Caution. Luft-Luebbe Lagoon. Green Acres.

E.U.B. Church, Zamzow Avenue, Old German Cemetery, Goerl's Mechanic School, old Schiebe Distillery site, Alkali Flats.

Arrow to Worms

Schutz Avenue, Bruns Street, Rice Paddies, the Mess Road, Prairie Creek Baptist Cemetery.

Downtown Archer, Gillham homesite marker, Sinsel Library.

An enlightening trip.

--From the imagination of
Hubert Boelts

# ARCHER MEMORIES

Here are some memories of Archer where I lived until I was nineteen.

My mother, Mrs. Winnie Brittin, ran the post office from 1912 to 1915 after my father's death in 1912. I barely remember this but I do recall one time the gypsies came to town and she sent me next door to lock the doors of my grandmother's house, as she was gone. I just knew they would grab me before I got back in my house. We lived in the third house north of the Methodist Church. I barely remember the post office in the south room. I couldn't see over the window and I wasn't allowed in the office. I started to school in Archer but moved to the farm when Mama married John Van Pelt in 1916 and then I went to Stovepoker School. Erma Marsh was a teacher I remember.

We moved back to town and Ray and I lived with our Grandma Secoy in the second house north of the Methodist Church. A lot of our life centered around the church which we always attended. Playmates were the Gardner family and Geraldine and Maxine Zamzow plus various preachers' families.

I was in the sixth grade when the schoolhouse burned down. I went to the old hall building for the seventh grade. Most of us got new glasses that year. Some said that the building was too dark for us. We were happy with the new building and I went there until I graduated with Archer's first class in 1926. Prom night was a new experience and we'd never seen a graduation service before.

Some of the things I remember are school parties at various homes. It was always so dark, we could hardly see to get home because of no electricity. I remember climbing up to the top of Woodward's elevator. Lola's dad gave us permission and we viewed the countryside. It seemed like the world to me. Then we used to walk the rails out to the Standers to play with my life-long friend, Genevieve and pick wild flowers at May basket time. One of my fondest memories is of Pat Eckhoff with his two-wheeled milk delivery carts. He was always on time, but his whistle alerted us and on Christmas we always opened the front door a crack to beat him to a "Merry Christmas". We were always rewarded with cream or minced meat for a Christmas dinner. I played with Inez a lot and we always made the rounds of the lumber yard where we always got a nickel for an ice cream cone.

I especially remember Deacon Gardner and his rural mail delivery--a horse and buggy and in winter he had a covered cart with a little stove in the corner to warm his feet and a stove pipe for a chimney. I met him, rain or shine, for our mail on the farm.

I worked for Mrs. Chris Franks a lot, cleaning and washing dishes for the traveling men she fed and roomed in her hotel. I ironed sheets and dish towels. I always thought that's what she trusted me with, with a gas iron I was scared of.

Then when she wasn't able, my Grandma Secoy fed travelers. Sometimes there would be ten to twelve for dinner. I began

to cook and help with household chorse. One time an airplane crashed one half mile north of town and I ran with every kid in town to see the plane, probably my first. My first cherry pie dried out in the oven and then burned when a neighbor built up the fire.

I attended Nebraska Central College one year and taught one year before leaving Archer. I spent four years in Minnesota, teaching in rural schools and then came back to Nebraska where I married Clarence Triplett in 1932. We lived six years at Sumner and have been on our farm at Lexington forty-nine years. We have two daughters, eight grandchildren and six great grandchildren.

These are just a few of many memories. We were content even with many hardships. We had no car, no phone, and no electricity. We carried fuel for stoves, pumped water, and washed on the board.

Central City was so far away. I was frightened when I had to go there to take eighth grade examinations and eighth grade graduation. Despite all of this, Archer meant a lot to me and I still attend the alumni banquets and renew acquaintances with some of the best friends I ever had.

--Edna Brittin Triplett

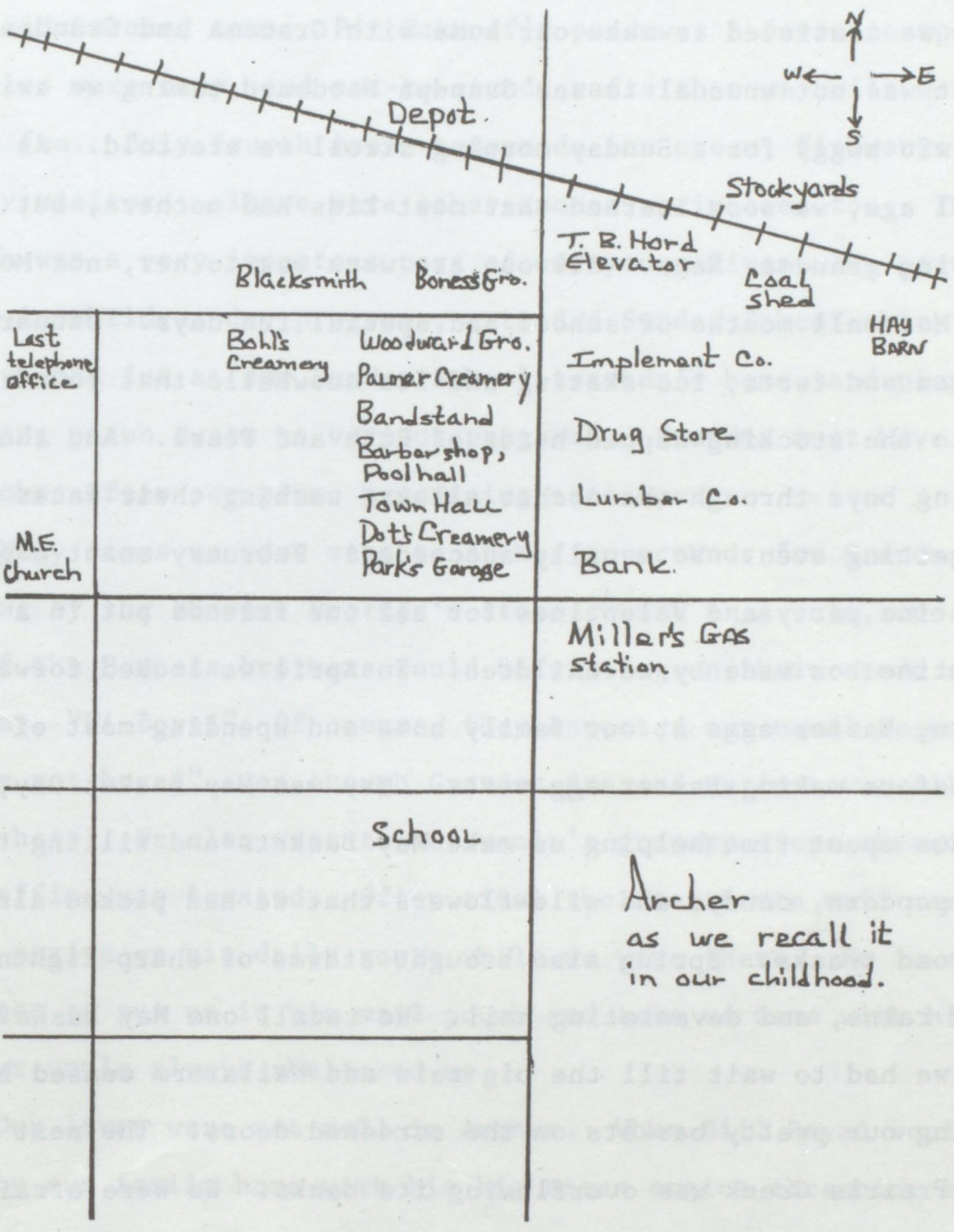
# CHILDHOOD MEMORIES OF ARCHER

My twin sister and I have just participated in the wonderful Archer Centennial. What a joyous and grand time we had shaking hands and hugging so many old friends. Thus, we decided to reminisce about our childhood experiences growing up in the small town of Archer.

Early in the year of 1920 we began our young lives in our grandparent's home. There were many businesses in that small town. Our grandfather managed the T.B. Hord grain elevator. There was an implement company south of the elevator known as the Wagner Implement Co. Later it became the Baker John Deere Implement Co. On the same side of the street were a drug store run by Minor Whaley and the Ayer's Lumber and Coal yards managed by Pat Eckhoff. Continuing down the street was the Archer Citizen State Bank managed by Phoecian Hansen. Across the street south of the bank was the Miller Gas and Delivery Station.

Across the street west of the elevator was the Bonness and Dipple Grocery Store and Gas Station, later known as Bonness Brother's I.G.A. Another grocery store across the street was the Riggs Store, later called the P.C. Woodward Grocery, which also housed the post office in the early days. Continuing on south was Pat Gardner's Palmer Creamery, the band stand, a barber shop with an ice cream parlor and pool room, the town hall, Dot Grace's Cream, Feed, and Poultry Station and Park Grace's garage. West of the Woodward grocery was Henry Bohl's Cream and Poultry Station, and across from Mr. Bohl's station was the blacksmith shop maintained by Mr. Drake.

The Archer Methodist Church was in the southwest part of town, and the Archer grade and high school was in the south. Directly north of the business district was the Burlington Depot. There were two different locations of the telephone company, one in the Lehr home and the last one in the home of Elmer Bonness just west of the Bohl creamery.



Learning of the serious illness of our mother, Grandma Woodward and aunt Vera VanPelt came by train to Comstock, Nebraska in the early spring of 1920 to bring seven month old Ruth and Pearl Woodward, twin baby girls, to their home in Archer to be cared for while their mother could receive medical treatment and convalesce in the Persinger Rest Home in Central City, Nebraska. Our mother was also on the same train, but on a stretcher in the baggage car. Following her death we continued to make our home with Grandma and Grandpa Woodward, and it was not unusual to see Grandpa Woodward taking we twins in our twin buggy for a Sunday morning stroll we are told. As we became school age, we soon learned that most kids had mothers, but we had a loving grandma, Mama. All our art work was to her, not Mother.

Most all months of school had special fun days. January had snowmen and forts, ice skating and ice snowballs that found their way to the stocking-capped heads of Ruth and Pearl. And that meant chasing boys through the Archer alleys, washing their faces in snow, and getting even. We usually succeeded! February meant a great Valentine party and Valentines for all our friends put in a pretty Valentine box made by we children. In April we looked forward to hunting Easter eggs at our family home and spending most of the day before making Easter egg nests. May was May Basket Day, and Grandma spent time helping us make May Baskets and filling them with popcorn, candy, and wild-flowers that we had picked along the railroad tracks. Spring also brought storms of sharp lightning, heavy rains, and devastating hail. We recall one May Basket evening that we had to wait till the big rain and hailstorm ceased before hanging our pretty baskets on the screened doors. The next morning Prairie Creek was overflowing its banks. We were afraid to

cross the stately old iron bridge that spanned the creek. In those days the road to Archer curved like a ribbon around the creek into Archer. Later the creek bed was rechanneled to its present position, and a modern bridge replaced the old one. As Spring ended, our school picnic was the big event. There were picnic baskets heaped full of goodies and lots of ice cream provided by the school board.

Our summer months of June, July, and August were spent playing with kids around town. Pat Eckhoff's pond was a favorite spot. Tadpoles were many, and not-to-sturdy rafts that we built were great fun. July fourth meant home-made ice cream, fireworks, and family visitors. There were other summer activities too. The church was a very important part of our young lives. We participated in children day programs, attended Sunday School every Sunday, had fun at our Sunday School teacher's home, and played and sang piano duets at various programs. Grandma must have had headaches after our piano practicing sessions.

Many times we were sent to Archer on errands for Grandma, passing by the Bonness Brother's store, where as a rule, one or two of the Bonness brothers would be sitting on their store steps and say, "Hi Boys!" Of course, they expected our usual response, "We're not boys!" even though Grandma dressed us in cover-alls and straw hats. We also went to our uncle's grocery store where the post office was located. Often times the Star Route mail carrier would arrive on his daily route while we were there. He loved to threaten to put us in his mail pouch and take us home with him, but our uncle always sheltered us.

Our lives were not dull in Archer. When Bill Royal would come by our family home with his big steam engine threshing machine

and blow his whistle at us, we scurried for the house; believe me! Then there were herds of cattle being driven by our family home on their way to the Archer stock-yards to be shipped by train to the market. One of us always had to run and shut the gate to our acreage. There were our chores of taking Grandpa's cows to the pasture in the morning and bringing them home in the evening for milking. Grandpa had a small dairy, and we girls would help him deliver milk to his customers about Archer both night and morning, even before we went to school.

Our summers wouldn't be complete without spending time with Grandpa at the elevator where he would let us climb the many flights of stairs with him to the top where he would inspect the grain bins while we surveyed the Archer countryside, bird's-eye view. Occasionally we climbed the stairs unbeknown to Grandpa! We also had fun playing in the box-cars while Grandpa lined them for grain shipping. Sometimes we would place his spike nails on the tracks and watch them get flattened. It was fun watching the trains hook up the grain-filled box-cars. At other times we watched teams of spooked horses as they pulled wagon-loads of grain up and down the approaches of the elevator to the unloading pits, past the big gas engine room that controlled the elevator operations.

Other unforgettalbe things were Pat Eckhoff's coal sheds and the big hay barn. They were just east of the elevator. We played lots of hours in the hay barn that was filled with bales of hay. Often bums or tramps slept there, and we always found their nests. Summer wasn't summer without the usual train fires set along the railroad right-of-way by burning coals falling from the engine. Many a night we were afraid to go to sleep because our pasture had

burned and live burning stumps would still be glowing with fire.

On the outside of the implement building there was an old wriggly stairway that led to an unused hall above the first floor. The hall was full of old things. Among them was a beautiful old grand piano as well as some lodge paraphenalia. Maybe some of the older people will recall its activities.

During most summers there would be a band of gypsies and horse traders camped north of Archer near the creek. They would come to our home dressed in their pretty gypsy clothes and jewelry begging for chickens and eggs. Once in awhile Grandma would buy willow stools that they made from willow branches.

Another interesting event was the circus that came to Archer. It was a treat to watch the circus people put the tents up and to see the colorful circus wagons. We loved watching circus trains passing through Archer. We also enjoyed making train trips to Central City with Grandma to buy our clothes and articles that she couldn't buy in the Archer stores. Now, haircuts were one of the less fun things for us, but the barber always rewarded us with free candy-topped ice cream cones. And on Saturday nights it was Grandpa's treat to buy us ice cream cones at the drug store, or else give us nickles to buy what we'd like.

Before we knew it, summer had passed and school began. Our teachers were loving and caring people who knew each child and his family. I believe the only problem we caused our teachers was being able to tell us apart and calling us by our right names.

As autumn settled in, leaves began to fall, and all we kids had lots of fun building a leaf house on the school ground that actually was a neat and warm hideout. I also recall one cloudy,

cool windy night nearing Halloween that Grandpa took us down the road to hear the ghosts playing on the telephone wire. How he enjoyed that evening! We did too after we found the ghost to be a piece of flapping paper.

When the snow began to fall it was time for Fox and Goose, snowball fights, and fort building. Our Christmas programs were also happy memory makers. Our teachers saw to it that each child had a piece to speak, songs to sing, plays to act out, and an encounter with Santa Claus. We looked forward to drawing names and selecting a present for our teacher. We all counted on the teacher's presents to each of us too. Usually it was a sack of candy and a small girl or boys gift. Twenty-five cents was our present allowance.

I can remember so well Mr. Reed, our school janitor, who was so kind to us all. He helped all of us with our mittens, overshoes and buttoning our coats. He even retreived Alice Hansen's Red Riding Hood doll from the girl's toilet.

As we grew older our interests became like the grown-ups. We had reached our goals of graduating from Archer High School. My twin sister Ruth married in October following graduation leaving me so lonely. I found myself clerking in my uncle's store and writing checks for Pat Gardner's cream station where my husband-to-be also worked.

The Saturday night free picture show brought all the farmers and townspeople together, and the streets of Archer were crowded. All kinds of funny things happened on Saturday nights. I remember, especially, a can of cream that Pat Gardner was stirring to get a testing, when, honestly, a frog jumped out of it! Of course, the

cream went out the door. There were other incidents. A candler found rotten eggs in a 12 dozen egg crate. Chickens were held in crates for the exchange of groceries. Vinegar was pumped from the vinegar barrel for pickling. Coffee was ground by the pound. There were three-cent stamps, nickle candy bars, and ice cream cones.

There were also times of joy and times of sadness; not much money but plenty of caring people and sharing life with our neighbors. The fire that destroyed our beloved Methodist church, and the closing of the school brought sadness to each of us who lived in the small rural community of Archer. However, through the years the community has remained the stepping stone to new lives. It is a monument to our pioneers who have gone before, preparing the way for so many of us. May we say, "God bless you all; what a great example and heritage you've given us."

Written by Pearl Woodward Glause with loving memories of what Archer was to us in our young childhood.

# MEMORIES OF ARCHER

Archer has many good memories for me from the school plays to the free shows, to working at the ice cream counter of Hruska's Bool Hall and Barber Shop.

One of the school memories when as very young students, we girls gathered the leaves in a pile east of the schoolhouse. We then used them to make walls for our playhouse which looked like a maze, only to have the high school boys walk through them and knock the walls down. There were indeed some heart broken girls.

Another experience was not so good. The first vaccinations for diphtheria and smallpox were given upstairs at the school. I tried to be brave and go and have mine done. I came back down, sat in my seat, fainted and fell out. Ruth Perrell and Wayne Beyers then took me home in Wayne's "Model A" car. It paid to faint that day.

A highlight was when my father, Albert Wegner, took my brother, Dwain, any neighbor kids that walked to our place, and me to school in the bobsled each winter when the roads were blocked with snow. Dad put straw in the box for us to sit in. He then covered us up with a fur lap robe. He wore a long fur coat, hat and gloves which we still have. It was fun and it really beat walking. Look what kids miss today.

Darlene (Wegner) Kuhn

# ARCHER MEMORIES

My memories of life in the Archer area start on the family (Lou and Lydia Wegner) farm 1 1/2 miles west of Archer. Growing up during the depression was not too difficult for a kid, but parents suffered from stress and worry of how to hang on and just provide food for the table. I am in awe of my mother who helped outside with heavy farm work and could still manage the home and to make such good meals. They haven't managed to put that into cans yet! We kids, Vivian, Leland and I, drove Dad's white trotter, Maude, hitched to a cart to school every day. After picking up Darlene and Dwaine Wegner we'd head for Archer. Maude always had to be at the head of all the various types of hourses heading for school. We thought it was a super way to start the day by racing to town. One morning, however, Maude had a sore foot so Dad hitched our old pony, Spot, to the cart. She was agreeable until we picked up the two extra passengers and then the excitement began. She soon had left the five of us either very mad or crying in the ditch.

I recall having the first seat in the last row in Dorothy Sinsel's room. Programs were so exciting. I have a program printed in 1929 of the Christmas Program involving the whole school in which I recited "A Stitch in Time "

I was always envious of my friend Imogene Brandt who lived upstairs over the depot. Trains were exciting and we often played on the walk boards of the cattle yards. I will always remember Bennie Gardner, who gave me an ice cream cone when all the girls except me had a nickle.

My younger sister, Phyllis, came to join us when I was seven. I recall sitting under the table crying when I gave up my status of the youngest. How happy we were when we all became acquainted and in the following years.

We all remember the Saturday nights in town--the movie, meeting your friends. How I would like to relive one Saturday with Archer as it was.

--Submitted by Wauneta Wegner McBride

# FAMILIES

## WILHELM ANDERSON FAMILY

Wilhelm and Matilda Anderson came from Orebro, Sweden about 1895 and settled on a farm near Tabor, Iowa. Their two oldest children, August and Hugh, were born in Sweden. The rest of the children were born in Tabor. The oldest daughter, Esther, died in 1908, and Mabel died in infancy. August and Hugh were married before the the Andersons moved to Merrick County in 1908 to the farm in Midland Township, two miles east of Archer. (Cecil and Mildred Rawlings now live at the old Anderson farm site.)

Wallace Anderson married Florence Gillham in 1915 and a son, Ivan, was born to them. After the death of his wife, Wallace married Mabel Cartwright and they had a son, Raymond.

Agnes Anderson graduated from Central City High School in 1910 and taught school in Merrick County until she married Alva Kiser in 1916. They had five sons, Robert, Marvin, William, Donald, and Norval.

Nina Anderson attended District 14 and graduated from Central City High School in 1916. In 1917, she married Thomas Claire Grieve. They had three children, Thomas, Betty, and Jack.

Doris Anderson attended District 14 and graduated from Central City High School in 1921. She was married in 1922 to Lloyd Campbell. Their children are Dorothy (Mrs. Leo Heinemann), Jean, Donald, Dale, and Duane.

Guy Anderson graduated from the eighth grade from District 14, but he never attended high school as his help was needed on the farm. The father died in 1930, and Guy cared for the mother until her death in 1936. Guy was active in local affairs. He was clerk of the township board for several years. He attended the Methodist Church in Archer. He was a faithful church worker, singing in the choir and working in the Sunday School. In 1926 he was Worshipful Master of Lone Tree Lodge A.F. and A.M. of Nebraska. In 1940 he married Myrtle Melvin and a son was born to them in 1942, Charles William Anderson.

In 1945, the Guy Anderson family left the farm and moved to Lincoln, Nebraska, where Guy worked until his retirement for the Beatrice Foods Company, and Myrtle Anderson taught in the Lincoln Public Schools. Charles Anderson graduated from Lincoln High School in 1960 and from the University of Nebraska in 1967 with a Bachelor of Science degree and a Doctor of Dental Surgery degree. On November 1, 1985, he was inducted into the International College of Dentists in San Francisco, California. This is a high honor as only two hundred dentists each year are honored.

As the years go by, so it is with the Wilhelm Anderson family. Agnes Kiser, the last of the family, passed away March 14, 1989. It would take pages to write about the next generation and the next.

Myrtle Melvin Anderson

AGNES ANDERSON
NINA ANDERSON

FRED BAKER

Frd Baker operated an implement shop in in Archer for twenty years.

He was born at Damariscota. Maine, December 5, 1879. He came to Nebraska in 1901 for health reasons. He lived for a time at Lakeside. He was married to Grace Baker in Central City, June 30, 1903. The couple moved to Omaha where he worked for seven years for the Street Railway Company. They returned to Merrick County where he farmed before entering business in Archer. He was a member of Lone Tree Lodge No. 36 AF & AM.

# THE BOELTS FAMILY

Two Boelts families put their roots down in the Archer area. They came to the United States from Scharrel, Oldenburg, Germany. The older Fred Boelts and his family settled in the sandhills north of Archer. His nephew, Fred G. Boelts, bought a farm two miles north and two miles east of Archer.

Fred A. Marsh, in his "According to my Tell" of March 14, 1963 gives the following story of the Sandhill branch of the family.

Mr. and Mrs. Fred Boelts, probably born in Germany, came to Prairie Creek Township from Belleville, Illinois. They lived there for a time before coming to Midland. Here in Midland they lived for two years on the Candish place later known as the Martin place near the "Big Bridge" south of us. Then they bought their homestead rights on the NW quarter of Sec. 34-14-7, just north of us and proved up on this claim. Later they bought an adjoining quarter and land on the Loup Valley and when they died had acquired some 800 acres. I have known few people who have worked harder for such small returns, but they were very good managers. Mr. Boelts served on the County Board of Supervisors for a number of years, representing Midland and Mead.

Mr. and Mrs. Boelts raised nine children. They were a family that loved music. Fred Boelts himself played a violin and late in life acquired an organ. Several of the children, notably Fred, Henry and Meta had beautiful voices and sang a great deal. An early memory for our children is hearing this trio sending glorious harmony over the quiet night air as they drove by in their buggy. Frequently they spent an evening with us singing around the organ.

Oldest of children was Katie who married Will Schroeder and lived most of her life between Clarks and Central City. Before her marriage she worked for many years in the Wright Hotel in Central City. Because of her skills, she drew wages which now would be very small, but were then about the average. John, a man of such fine integrity that for much of his life he carried the moniker of Honest John, did not marry. This in no way was to disparage the name of his cousin, Senator John Boelts, who was also an honest man. He worked for neighbors, spending several years at my father's. He owned one of the first cars--the first Chevrolet--to come into the community.

Gustav never married and spent several years as a farm hand and as a florist. Later in life he decided to be a teacher and accepted my invitation to help him. He studied and recited to me at nights after work until he passed the teachers' examinations.

Mollie married Herman Lebert of whose family I recently wrote in this column. Emma helped neighbor women, including my mother and in the care of her aging parents. Fred married Eliza Soles whose son Dwight by a previous marriage now lives and prospers nearby. Henry's wife was Louise Eckert of Archer. His two daughters taught at Archer for nine years and their son Fred now occupies the old home place.

Tillie Boelts, a musician and teacher, did not marry. In later life, she, Emma, and John spent most of their time in Archer. Meta, the baby of the family and the only one of the

children now living had a beautiful voice. She kept house for Fred and Henry on the home place for several years after the parents were gone, later marrying Henry Giles and raising a fine family of ten children. Her home is now at Arcadia.

John Boelts went back one year to Belleville, Illinois to visit where his parents had lived and brought back an account of what happened in early years. Land had to be cleared of heavy timber, a slow toilsome process with inadequate tools and small compensation. He also visited in St. Louis before returning home.

John also brought back a book purported to be an authoritative volume on the game of checkers. He, along with Louis Stander and Charlie Woodward, were chief contenders against Chris Franks who wore the highly decorated belt of champion of checker players in Archer. With great confidence and frequent reference to the book which lack of educational opportunity prevented Chris from reading, John tackled the champion but to no avail. Chris still won.

by F. A. Marsh

Tillie Boelts

# FREDERICK G. BOELTS

Frederick G. Boelts, farmer, son of Gerd and Anna (Oeltjen) Boelts, was born in the Grand Duchy of Oldenburg, Germany, October 28, 1871. He came with his parents to America, locating in Merrick County, Nebraska, in which Mr. Boelts received his education in the home schools, and in the years 1893, 1894 and 1895 attended Iowa Wesleyan University at Mt. Pleasant, Iowa, after which he taught in the Nebraska schools for four years.

On March 29, 1899 Mr. Boelts was joined in wedlock to Miss Kate Burno of Nebraska who had also been a teacher and whose father, Henry A. Bruno, setttled in Nebraska in 1873 and served one term in the Nebraska State Legislature.

Mr. and Mrs. Boelts have had five children born to them whose names are as follows: Henry, deceased August 24, 1906 at the age of six years; Margaret M., Ethel Irene, Edith A., and Helen G., all of whom reside under the parental roof.

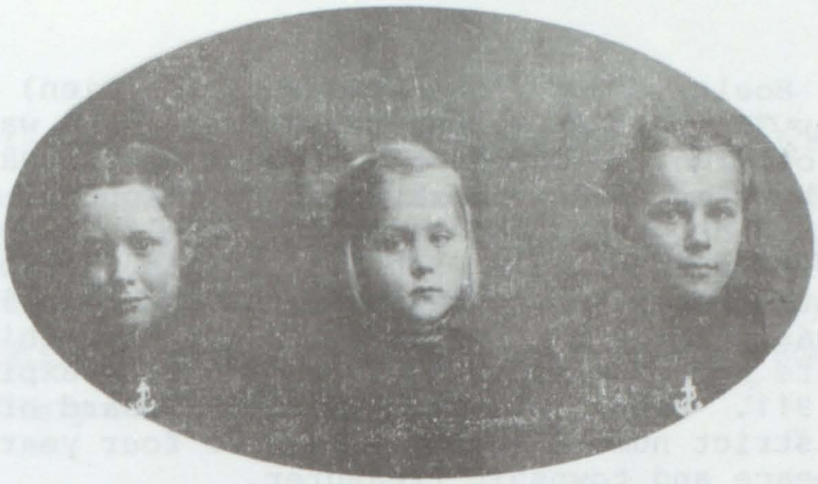
Mr. Boelts has been prosperous and successful and owns 160 acres of finely cultivated land. His father died May 9, 1898 in Nebraska and his mother is still living on the old home place in Merrick County.

Mr. Boelts has served as precinct assessor and while still a young man is one of the early settlers of his county and is well and favorably known.

--Compendium of History, Reminiscence, and Biography of Nebraska, Alden Publishing Company, Chicago, 1912

Fred G. Boelts and sons,

Hubert and Roland



Irene, Edith and Margaret Boelts

Capt. Irene Boelts, manager of Officers Mess in London during World War II

Cadet Heidi Boelts, only girl from Merrick County who has been enrolled in U. S. Air Force Academy at Colorado Springs

# HON. JOHN G. BOELTS

John G. Boelts, son of Gerd and Anna (Oeltjen) Boelts, was born December 31, 1873 at Qldenburg, Germany, and was the sixth in a family of eight children, two of whom are deceased. He has two brothers and two sisters in Merrick County, Nebraska, and one sister in Denver, Colorado. Mr. Boelts came to America in September of 1878 with his parents who located in Merrick County, Nebraska, engaging in farming. In 1908, Mr. Boelts was elected to the lower house of the thirty-first Nebraska State Legislature. His term of office expired January 1, 1911. He has also served on the board of his school district, district number thirty-five, for four years; and as justice of peace and township treasurer.

Mr. Boelts, in partnership with his brother, S. G. Boelts, and his sisters own 760 acres of fine farm land in township thirteen, range eight. It is a fine stock farm and they make a specialty of Hereford cattle.

John G. Boelts' father, Gerd Boelts, died May 9, 1898. He located where the present buildings are situated when he first came to Nebraska and this was to be his home for the balance of his life. At the time of his death he owned 440 acres. His widow, Mrs. Anna Boelts, survives him and makes her home with her children.

--From Compendium of History, Reminiscence, and Biography of Nebraska, Alden Publishing Company, Chicago, 1912

John G. Boelts serving in the Nebraska State Legislature in 1909.

# REBECCA and FRED BOELTS FAMILY

Although the Arizona community of Yuma is now our home, our memories of Archer and Merrick County run long and deep. Our three children, John, Robert and Heidi all have fond memories of the Central City Schools, the Fairview United Methodist Church and our home in Archer. They spent many hours visiting their grandparents, Hubert and Esther Boelts of Archer and Loren and Mary Ann Trendle of Columbus.

Rebecca is an elementary teacher in Somerton, Arizona. She graduated from Kearney State College. Rebecca's family originated from Peoria, Illinois. Her childhood days were spent on the island of Cuba and later in Fullerton, Nebraska.

A strong love of farming followed Fred through Gardner School, Central City High School. He graduated from the University of Nebraska at Lincoln with a degree in agronomy. He spent twenty six years farming in the Archer area. Then Fred moved to year-round farming raising cabbage, lettuce, cauliflower, cabbage, wheat, alfalfa, milo and barley in the Colorado River Valley at Yuma.

Our family pride manifests itself in the pursuit of education and life experiences of our three children. Each of them has benefited immensely from the quality of life in the Archer community. In 1988, Heidi will be the first woman from Central City High School to graduate from a United States Service Academy. Robert is finishing his first year at Yuna High Schoolwhere he enjoys vocational agriculture. John is in the fourth grade and loves soccer, baseball and golf.

To the left
Mertice Brannan.

Below--Loren
Brannan.

# WINIFRED BRITTIN

Miss Winifred Secoy came to Archer, Nebraska as a young lady from Maine, Minnesota to visit her brother, Elvin Secoy and wife--the former Mamie Rawlings. They had married in 1904 and lived on the Rawlings farm northeast of town. She evidently met and fell in love with Fred M. Brittin who moved to Archer from Wood River, Nebraska in 1906. She came back shortly and married Mr. Brittin October 23, 1907. Mr. Brittin was Archer postmaster for several years. He was also a barber and a part-time carpenter as he built their home--a small house east of the Roger Stander home, was south and close to the Paul Bonness home but has been moved or destroyed since.

They had two children, Edna and Ray. Mr. Brittin became ill and died in Omaha, Nebraska April 12, 1912 following surgery.

Winnie stayed in Archer, moved to the third house north of the Methodist Church where the post office was located and she was the town's postmistress from 1912 to 1915.

She married John Van Pelt in 1916 and passed away at the family farm in 1919. Her two children were cared for by her mother, Mrs. Anna Secoy, who with her husband, George Secoy, had moved to Archer from Maine, Minnesota in 1910 to be near their children, Winnie and Elwin Secoy. Mr. Secoy died in 1915. Mrs. Secoy continued to live in her home, second house north of the Methodist Church, until her death in 1928. Edna and Ray became a part of her family when their mother died in 1919.

Edna was a graduate of Archer's first class in 1926. She attended Nebraska Central College in Central City one year and was a rural school teacher for several years. She was married to Cloris Triplett in 1932 and they reside on their farm near Lexington, Nebraska. They are parents of two daughters and have eight grandchildren and six great grandchildren.

Ray had polio when four years of age. Although handicapped all of his life, he graduated in 1928, attended business college in Grand Island, moved to Minnesota in 1930, was married in 1972 and passed away in 1978.

--Submitted by Edna (Brittin) Triplett

## GEORGE ECKHOFF

George (Pat) Eckhoff was born in 1878. He died in November, 1939. He was the manager and part owner of the Archer Lumber Company. He had been in failing health and had for the last year been a patient in the hospital for several weeks.

For many years he las lived in Archer. Mr. Eckhoff was the manager of the Archer Lumber Company. Later he became a partner in the lumber yard when he purchased an interest in from the Ayres Estate.

Surviving are his wife who lives in Archer, a daughter Inez who teaches in Fairbairy, and a son Dean of Lincoln. Burial will be in the Zion Evangelical Cemetery.

From obituary, Central City Nonpareil, Nov. 16, 1939.

## FRANCES ECKHOFF

Mrs. E. Frances Eckhoff was born at Archer, March 17, 1884, the daughter of E. W. Lehr and Mary Elizabeth Donaldson Lehr. Mrs. Eckhoff taught for a year at Pleasant Hill School and for two years at Archer. She was married to John George Eckhoff at the home of her parents in Archer, July 23, 1907. She served as the manager of the Archer Telephone Exchange until she moved to Central City.

She was a member of the Methodist Church and received a fifty year membership in November of 1964. She was a past president of W.S.C.S. of the Methodist Church.

She is survived by her son, Dean, Alliance and a daughter, Inez Longdon of Eureka, California; two sisters, Mrs. Charles Huff and Addie Whaley of Central City; one brother, George Lehr of Wilmington, California.

# GEORGE H. FERRIS

George H. Ferris was born at Port Edward, New York, October 5, 1851. At the age of six years he came west with his parents locating near Galesburg, Illinois which was home for twenty-one years. About two years of his time was spent at Rock Springs, Wyoming. At his mother's death in January, 1875, he returned to Galesburg where he met and married Mary Johnston, December 26, 1876. On March 1, 1879, he moved to his farm near Central City, Nebraska, where he lived ontinuously until his death, November 27, 1921. He reached the age of 70 years, one month, and 22days.

He is survived by his wife and five children: Mrs. Harry Osborn, Mrs. W. G. Sampson, Mrs. Percy Gardner, Lee J., and Lisle W. Ferris.

# DANIEL W. FARNHAM

Daniel W. Farnham, son of Eli and Jerusha (Loomis) Farnham, was born in Galesburg, Illinois, December 6, 1838, and was the eldest of four children. He has one sister residing in Galesburg, Illinois, the others being deceased as are also the parents. The father died October 10, 1882, and the mother, December 18, 1872, both in Galesburg, Illinois. Ours subject was educated in the schools of his home state, and attended Knox College for three years. His father was the first school teacher in Galesburg and Daniel received his first three years' instruction under his father's tutelage. He later engaged in farming, and on February 29, 1860, was united in marriage to Emmeline Butler who was born in New York State, but came later to Illinois.

In the spring of 1882, Mr. and Mrs. Farnham and three children came to Nebraska, locating in Lincoln for one year, going to Beatrice, Nebraska the following year. In 1884 they moved to Merrick County and purchased 160 acres of land, being the northeast quarter of Section 27, Township 14, Range 7, which remained the home place until 1909, when Mr. Farnham retired from the farm and moved to Central City and purchased a good home where he now lives.

Mrs. Farnham died May 20, 1908, on the home farm, survived by her husband and three children, they having four children in all: Mary B., wife of George Baker, had five children, died in 1892, Fannie L., wife of Theo. Swartout, has three children and resides in Merrick County, Florence C., wife of John McKendry, has five children and lives in Central City. Mr. Farnham's oldest granddaughter, Nellie Baker, married D. L. Gardner, who lives in Archer, Nebraska and they have seven children. Alice Baker, another granddaughter, married Geo. A. Johnston, and they have one child, and live at Central City. Grace Baker, another granddaughter, married Randall Cronin, and lives in Colorado. Albert J. Baker, a grandson, lives at Lincoln, Nebraska. E. R. Swartout married Grace Braucher and lives in Central City.

--Compendium of History,
Reminiscence, and Biography
of Nebraska, Alden Publishing
Company, Chicago, 1912

# LUTELLUS L. FRAZER

Lutellus L. Frazer is widely known as an earnest and reliable citizen, and a man to be relied upon and trusted. Mr. Frazer was born in Pennsylvania, May 21, 1836, the son of Alexander and Amy Long Frazer, Frazer being the eldest of nine children is now the only one living. His father died in August 1871 and his mother in 1891, both in Pennsylvania.

Mr. Frazer received his education in the home schools and later carried on tailoring. On June 27, 1861, he enlisted in Company B, Twenty-eighth Volunteer Infantry, serving until the close of the war, receiving his discharge July 17, 1865 in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania. Mr. Frazer's first term of enlistment expired in December and he immediately reelisted and veteranized in the same company and regiment. Decisive battles engaged in were at Chancellorsville, Virginia, Antietam, Gettysburg, Lookout Mountain and Atlanta's Campaign, March to the Sea with Sherman and many minor engagements and skirmishes. He participated in the Grand Review at Wash- in June 1865. At one time he was taken prisoner while scouting and was held for three weeks in Virginia after the war. Mr. Fraser returned to his home state and engaged in the mercantile business for ten years and then farmed for three years.

On July 4, 1867, Mr. Frazer was united in matrimony to Miss Eliza J. Newmayer of Pennsylvania. In March of 1878, he came with his wife and family to Merrick County, Nebraska where he homesteaded eighty acres in Section 26, Township 14, range 7, seven miles northwest of Central City. (Archer was not in existence then. The Fraers lived two miles east and less than a mile south of the present day Archer.)

Mr. and Mrs. Frazer had four children: Howard M. lost in the first rush of the Klondike gold fields; Jessie M., wife of C. K. Sinsel and has eight children and lives four miles west of Central City; John N. resides in Basin, Wyonibg, and Arthur L. married, has three children and lives five and a half miles northwest of Central City.

Above

Mrs. Eliza Frasier

Below

John and Lulu Frasier

# THE GEORGE GARDNER FAMILY

Gardner School got its name from the George Gardner family who lived one half mile west of the school house.

Because Mr. and Mrs. George Gardner were converted at a revival meeting, they named their firstborn Deacon Luther. Their religious zeal must have cooled however when their other sons came along. They were named George, Benjamin and Richard.

The Gardner boys were the ringleaders in the school's mischief and weren't above making their school mates the butt of their jokes. Their most famous prank was putting a dime in a pile of cow dung. They marked the place and at recess called the other boys to show them where they could find a treasure. The other boys were soon rooting around in piles of cow manure in the hopes of finding some treasure for themselves.

Deacon was the son who achieved immortality in a sort in the Archer Community. He earned his living by carrying mail on the Archer Route but his genius showed up in the Archer items he wrote for the Central City papers. His favorite newsmakers were Archer's eccentric bachelors. He gave them nicknames, for instance a Mr. Teichmeier was Tackhammer and John Boehl was Johnny Jump Up Boehl.

In addition to his literary prowess, Deac put his sense of humor to work in his contraptions. He took the seats out of an old spring wagon, exchanged its doubletrees for shaves. He painted on the wagon's sides, "Deacon's One Hoss Shay". He then drove his unique conveyance through Archer and the surrounding roads. He used a horse tank for a rowboat when Prairie Creek flooded the main street of Archer.

Mrs. Deacon Gardner was a handsome woman. Even after bearing nine children, she was trim of figure and carried herself with great dignity. She always wore becoming clothes. Her obituary tells us that she was descended from Governor Bradford of Mayflower fame.

Like most big families, the Gardners had a lively home, and the Archer children liked to visit there.

It is too bad that Archer's younger generation never knew the Gardners.

--Submitted by Helen Boelts

DEACON GARDNER FAMILY

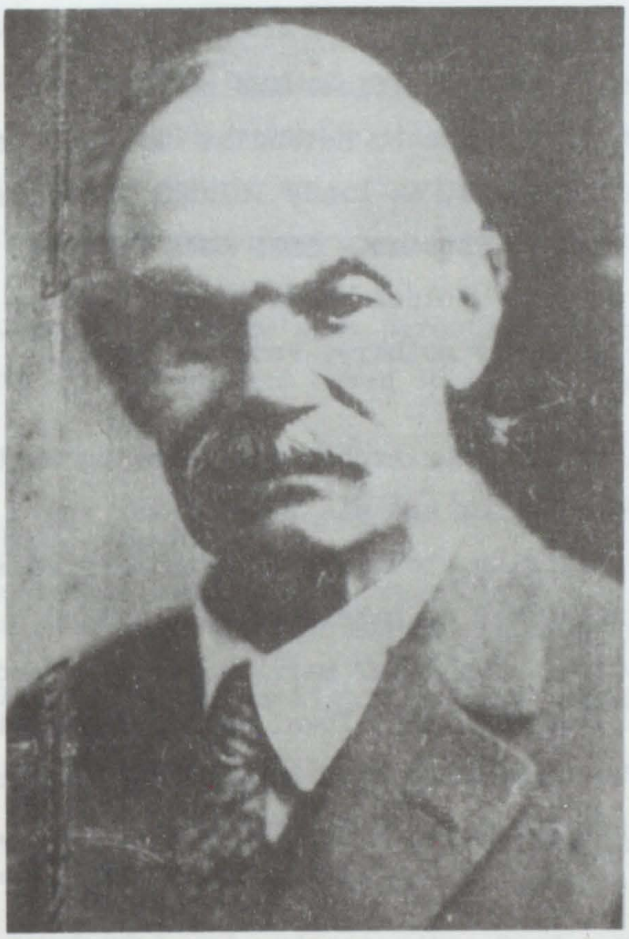
Left to right--Vincent Douglas, Gilson Gregg, Ramona Irene, Dorothy May, Benjamin Butler, Mary Luella, Grace Louise, Deacon Luther, Jr., George Baker, Nellie C. Gardner, Deacon L. Gardner.

# EMIL HANSEN

Emil Hansen was the first resident of Archer. The store building of which he is now proprietor was the first building in Archer. It was moved to its prsent site in 1887, the year the railroad went through. A general merchandise business together with the Adams Center Creamery has been conducted by Mr. Hansen all these years.

Through the hard times many people found a friend in Mr. Hansen as they do to this day, the store requiring two clerks at all times, and sometimes four or five. The cream supply comes from every part of the country for a radius of twenty miles. Many of his patrons have sold their cream to him ever since the creamery started. The creamery is fully equipped with the latest and best machinery and the quality of the butter produced finds a ready market. The bulk of it is shipped to Denver and Boston.

--From Deacon Gardner's Archer Items in the Central City Republican in December, 1910



# THE HANSEN FAMILY

Emil Hansen, born in Thisted, Denmark, April 16, 1848, appeared in the Nebraska territory shortly after the Civil War. He helped build the Union Pacific railroad; was a captain in the State Militia (called to active duty during the Indian Wars); pioneered a creamery at Adams Center which was on the banks of Prairie Creek about two miles southwest of Archer; moved it to Archer when the CB&Q railroad came through; with a partner established the Hansen-Templin General Store that served Archer to the 1950's (he left the store about 1919); was elected to the Nebraska legislature in 1907; served two terms as Merrick County Treasurer beginning in 1919.

I've been told that the old store building was taken to be a part of the Stuhr "Museum of the Prairie Pioneer" south of Grand Island. I found a store that might have been it, but didn't get a chance to confirm it.

Emil Hansen was a manufacturer, merchant, pulic officer and soldier. He was instrumental in building and serving the Archer Methodist Church. He married Mattie Hooper of Plattsmouth, Missouri, at Brady Island, Nebraska, March 12, 1884. Sons were Carl and Wilhelm Phocian. Emil took his wife and sons to Denmark in 1890 for his parents' Golden Wedding Anniversary. Daughters that came along later were Arta (my mother), Veda and Helen.

Carl married Rose Osterman and was a farmer near Archer until moving west during World War II. Phoc married Dora Wegner and was the "banker and later also the postmaster at Archer, retiring about 1953. Arta married my dad, Ed McCutchen, in 1913. Veda married Charles Babel of Grand Island who was killed in an industrial accident. She later married Harry Delano of Arcadia. Helen married Ray Earhart of Clarinda, Iowa. Neither of Emil Hansen's sons had sons of their own so the Hansen name in his line is gone, but his descendants are many. Some are close by in Aurora, Grand Island, and Wood River, but also in fifteen states and Israel.

Contributed by Bob McCutchen ,
Longmont, Colorado

REFLECTIONS

The Hansen Creamery and Grocery Store is a part of Archer history and my heritage. In 1912 son Carl Hansen married Rose Osterman and they built a house across the street north of the Methodist Church. After WWI Grandpa Emil retired from the creamery. Carl's brother Phocian, came back from the war and married Dora Wegner and they moved into the house by the church. Carl and Rose then built a house on the acreage at the Creamery Site.

In 1920 a daughter, Alice Catherine was born to them. A few years later Beatrice Creamery (I think) took over the making of butter in the area and the Hansen Creamery was closed. My father, Carl, continued to farm the small acreage raising Leghorn chickens. Later he operated a Custom Hatchery Service during the winter months. Since still there was no electricity on the farm, the three tier incubator (1,000 per tier) ran on kerosene and was operated manually. I remember watching Dad candle the eggs. One hundred eggs were put uniformly on each tray and once a day the trays were turned with a crank. It was always a thrill to watch the chickens. What a noisy living room on the day they were put into boxes waiting for delivery!

During the late 30's my parents, like so many others during the despression, gave up farming and moved to greener pastures.

SPECIAL MEMORIES

The boiler room of the Creamery held a special fascination for us children. The heavy door of the ice room always presented a challenge. We thought,

"What if it closed tightly and we would be trapped?"

Mother's music pupils were her pride and joy. She loved them all.

The special music for the church and the Christmas programs when each and every child had a part.

My wonderful and understanding Sunday School teachers.

Fun parties.

Christmas morning when Mr. Eckhoff would bring a gift for each child in town.

My first grade teacher who gave me a spanking (well deserved no doubt) and the second one I got at home when the folks found out. To my surprise, years later when I had a Christmas letter and she also remembered!

Treasured thoughts of wisdom my teachers gave to me. They have served me well over the years.

A stray dog who adopted me. (No bout left behind by the Circus!)

The fun times ice-skating on the creek.

In spring, at flood time, when Dad would ferry us across to the other side in a round stock tank It would turn and twist and bring forth screams of delight from the girls.

The classmates who left their horse and buggy at our place during school hours.

The time our kitchen stove blew up.

The Model T Ford.

Visiting my cousin's country school

The fun picnics.

Climbing up to the top of the elevator.

Picking wild flowers along the railroad tracks.

Looking for turtles along the creek.

Playing barefooted in the wheat and corn bins.

This Centennial I rediscovered the same wonderful, loving and friendly that I knew as a child. May God richly bless each one of you.

Alice Hansen Pickrel

Mr. and Mrs. Emil Hansen

# THE HUFF FAMILY

Mr. and Mrs. Charles Huff, residents of Archer during World War II, were the parents of five sons serving in the armed forces.

Mr. Charles Huff was a veteran of the Spanish American War. His sons served in these capacities in World War II:

George Oren was a technical sergeant. He had been a member of the Broken Bow National Guard. Walter Maynard was in the navy and a cook on the Battleship Astoria. Charles W. was a tank mechanic, private 1st class. Theodore was a boatswain on the flagship Maryland and was present at Pearl Harbor when the Japanese staged their surprise raid. John was a private 1st class and was in the radio division of a headquarters company at Ft. Lewis.

A service flag with five blue stars on a background of white was seen in the Huff's window.

--From the Omaha World Herald
Sunday Magazine

# ANTON HUMMEL

Anton Hummel was born in Pennsylvania, January 6, 1838 and was the youngest of five children in the family of Anthony and Francisco Hummel, who had five sons and three daughters. Our subject was born and raised on a farm in Schuylkill County, Pennsylvania, and in September, 1861, enlisted in Company I, One Hundred and Fifty-First Pennsylvania Infantry, and participated in the battles of Gettysburg and Chancellorville and received his discharge at Harrisburg, Pennsylvania.

In July, 1866, Mr. Hummel was married to Miss Ursula Jacobs, to which union four children have been born: John, Anna, Magdelina, and Chris. Mrs. Hummel, the mother, died on the home farm October 1890.

In March, 1880 Mr. and Mrs. Hummel came to Merrick County Nebraska, where they purchased land and made a home, selling the same in 1883, returning to Pennsylvania for a four month stay, then returned to Merrick County and purchased 160 acres of land on Section 14, Township 14, Range 7 which has remained the home farm until this date, where Mr. Hummel now owns 320 acres in the farm and 40 acres of hay land.

--From Compendium of History, Reminiscence and Biography of Nebraska, Alden Publishing Company, Chicago, 1912

# JACOB AND MINNIE (WEGNER) ITA

Jacob and Minnie on their wedding day
April 22, 1898

Jacob Ita was born August 27, 1871 in Stammhiem, Switzerland. When he was eleven years old he lost his dear mother in death. His father was in America at that time. After the death of his mother, he came across the ocean to meet his father who was working in Ohio at that time. He lived in Ohio and four years later came to Nebraska. He lived in Burwell for four years and in 1890 came to Archer to be a hired hand. He then went to Rock County and lived for four years and in 1898 he again came back to Archer. On April 22, 1898 he married Miss Minnie Wegner. Eight children were born-- Oscar, William, Margaret (Weyers), Walter, Harry, Clarence and Wesley. One daughter, Louella, and one son, Walter, preceded him in death. In 1921 on January 24th his wife passed away. On February 12, 1925 he was again married, to Mrs. Ella Brill Jaeger, under the ministership of Brother Beckman. Jacob passed away February 27, 1946 and Ella returned to her old home in Imperial to be near her daughters, Mrs. Oliver Anderson and Mrs. Henry Fuehrer. She lived there until her death on January 23, 1967.

--Submitted by Mrs. Wesley
(Donna) Ita

# JOCELYN BABEL KIMBERLING

Jocelyn Babel is the daughter of Charles and Veda Hansen Babel. She is the granddaughter of Emil Hansen, one of Archer's original citizens. She received her early education in Archer. Her father died when she was a little girl and she left Archer. In a letter she recently wrote to Margaret Young Vergo, she says, "When our fourth son, Vaughan went off to college, Kim (her husband) felt that the house and garden were too much for the two of us to care for, so we sold our house and moved to this small but cozy crowded two bedroom apartment near the University of Evansville (Indiana). We're just a few blocks from Clark (her son) and Margaret and family. He is our oldest son and is professor of mathematics at the University of Evansville. Margaret also teaches (music). Amy and David (twins 22½ years old) are in University. Amy is at Oberlin studying violin. David is here. Their youngest son, Brian is fourteen."

"We have four sons, only one of them adopted. He was born in Ceylon (now Sri Lanka) and is Sinhalese by birth--otherwise very American. Gary (2nd) and family (two children,Leslie and Jeffery) are in Brownsville, Texas. He is a banker. David Michael (3rd son) and Gae live in Idaho . Vaughn is living near them. Both David and Vaughn are working at Morton Thokol.

We were overseas for almost twenty years--six and a half in Ceylon (Sri Lanka), the first six and a half and the last three and one half in Fiji and all the others in Africa--some in Nigeria, some in Zambia, and one in Malawi. Every two years we had home leave for two months in the U.S.A. We could see our parents then, and later Gary and David. They were with us overseas until they came to the U.S.A. for university

**Submitted by Jocelyn Babel Kimmerling and Margaret Young Vergo**

# JOHN M. KYES

One of the best known and most prosperous retired farmers to be found in Merrick County, is John M. Kyes of Central City. He is also to be numbered among the oldest settlers, having come to Merrick County in August, 1862. On Christmas Day, two years later, he married Miss Viola Parker of New York State, and they enjoy the distinction of being the first couple to be married in that county.

Mr. Kyes, born in Oswego County, New York, on February 1839, was the oldest of three children born to Russell and Nancy Colgrove Kyes. Mr. Kyes grew up to manhood in New York State and remained there until about 1855, when he went to Iowa. He remained there until the spring of 1860, when again he joined in the never ceasing Westward movement, going this time to Denver, Colorado. He remained there two years, prospecting for a time and afterwards driving on a stage line.

When he first came to Merrick County, Mr. Kyes drove for the Western Stage Company for about two years. A short time after his marriage, he and his wife moved to a farm south of Chapman. About 1861, he took up a homestead of eighty acres on Prairie Creek northeast of Archer. He later purchased three hundred twenty acres adjoining. For many years, this place was known as the "old home place".

Mr. Kyes was instrumental in organizing his school district number 23, and for four years served as treasurer of the same.

Mr. and Mrs. Kyes had ten children, seven of whom are living. Those still living are as follows: Mary L., Ella Wickham of Furnas County, Anna, now Mrs. Willard Halsey of Nance County, Allie now Mrs. Benjamin Lantz of Chapman, Russell J. and John H. and Jessie. The last two named are twins.

Compendium of History, Reminiscence,
and Biography.
Alden Publishing Compamy, copyright
1912.

FROM "ACCORDING TO MY TELL"
by Fred A. Marsh

September 13, 1962

"Great oaks from little acorns grow." Charlie Shank's mink farm affords a shining example of what initiative and courage, supported by hard work and painstaking devotion can accomplish. Charlie has built an establishment which I am told is the largest of its kind in the state. With thousands of dollars in buildings and equipment and four thousand of the little animals in stock, Mr. Shank informs me that further expansion is not desirable. Thus it appears that business sagacity which got him on the ground floor is directing him to let well enough alone.

March 7, 1963

I wish I could learn something of the early life of J. M. Kyes. I do know he had a brother, Edward, who was a veteran of the Civil War and died in the Old Soldiers Home in Grand Island. I knew little about him prior to the time he came from Ohio. He was a stage coach driver, his route taking him past the tavern operated by my grandfather, Jason Parker, on the north bank of the Platte River about three miles southeast of where Central City is now located. It was here, I think, that he must have met my mother's sister, Viola, whom he presently married. The coming of the railroad, of course, brought an end to the stage coach which had three stops in Merrick County.

Uncle John was a skillful horseman. It was said that he could drive six horses as well as most men could handle two. He homesteaded in Midland on the SW 1/4 of 10-24 on the east bank of Prairie Creek.

Mr. Kyes built the first frame house to be erected in Midland near the bank of Prairie Creek on the exact site where Marion Kyes' home now stands. He and Viola raised a family of eight children. They helped organize one of the first rural schools in the county--the Gardner School.

The children were all taught to work and they all participated in developing a home which in later years became a focal point for many a social gathering.

The soil was excellent and their crops were always among the best of those days. In the very early times there was a gold discovery in the Black Hills at Deadwood which attracted a great many Merrick County people, including my Uncle John Kyes. Men with horses were in great demand and Uncle John spent a year up there moving supplies from one place to the other. He was able to bring home considerable money much needed in the development of his farm.

Descendents of Mr. and Mrs. Kyes have been tremendously hard workers and there are many evidences of their accomplishments. Sons John and Russ continued on the old farm home until their deaths, when operations were taken over and carried on by their sons.

# THE LEBERT FAMILY

From "According to my Tell"
by F. A. Marsh
Central City Republican
February 21, 1963

W. R. Lebert was a Polander. I believe he fought in a war against his own country before coming to America. His destination was a place called Strawberry Point in Iowa from which he enlisted in the Union Army. He served so well that he presently was offered a captaincy which he was obliged to refuse because his men would be colored soldiers and he could not tell one from another. He came to Nebraska in the early 70's and homesteaded the SW 1/4 of Sec 8-14-7. The sod house was just one large room with a small annex which they used for food storage. Mr. Lebert was quite a scholarly man in his own language and had a good working knowledge of English. He was not a practical farmer. Some of his theories were quite amusing. In breading the prairie he would throw two furrows against each other and drop the corn in the crevise between them. He was, however, an excellent gardener and I think without question raised the finest garden in our neighborhood.

I'm getting the narrative badly mixed up, but must include mention of the family. The children were Herman, Wilfred, Mathilda, Helen, Franz, Rose, Gertrude, and Fred and one daughter whose name I do not recall. The schoolhouse in their district was located on their farm only a few rods from their residence. It was a tiny board structure and soon had to give way to a much more commodious sod schoolhouse. The Lebert children were all adept at learning and the youngest boy, Fred, after spending ten years in preparation for the ministry, died at fifty years of age. I think they are all sleeping now.

The Lebert family and our family were very much attached. They visited often in our home and we just as often in theirs. Mr. Lebert was wounded in the neck while serving in the war and never fully recovered from the injury. He was very timid about asking for a pension but my father, who had personal acquaintance with Senator Alison of Iowa, took the matter up with him and secured a small allowance. There was considerable back pension and with that money Mr. Lebert went out to buy horses. He was a very poor judge of horse flesh and the animals he secured were rather scrawny in appearance. However, the boys were delighted with these new possessions and could talk of very little else than these wonderful horses.

Father was always concerned about Mr. Lebert's financial interests and hired him one winter to teach our school. His educational qualifications were excellent, but a number of rough boys made life very hard for him. Mr. Templin was elected county clerk and father prevailed upon him to engage Mr. Lebert as his deputy. He was a very fine penman and his work will bear close scrutiny.

A further word about the Lebert children will be of interest to many readers who still remember them. Herman homesteaded in South Dakota and during the terrible dry 90's his fences and improvements were buried by the sand which the wind was continually shifting. He returned to Nebraska and his last years were spent here. Wilfred was content to spend his life as a hired man. Mathilda and Helen were nurses. Rose married a physician. Fred, the scholar, was preaching in Iowa, at the time of his death. Franz, who like his father was a fine penman, held a clerical job with the government in Washington. He was a great Sunday School enthusiast. We paid them an extended visit in 1935.

FROM WILFRED LEBERT'S OBITUARY

Wilfred Lebert was born at Strawberry Point, Iowa, February 25, 1869. His parents came to Merrick County in 1871 and settled on a homestead two miles north and a half mile west of the present site of Archer. He attended District 43 and was noted for his studious habits. He was possessed of a remarkable memory. He frequently surprised his teachers by reciting lessons from the texts verbatim. In his later life he read extensively. He had a preference for historical records and current political discussions. He died April 18, 1946.

## EDWARD W. LEHR

Edward W. Lehr was born March 1, 1855, in Philadelphia Pennsylvania and died at his home at Archer on Friday, August 2, 1929. On January 29, 1880, he was united in marriage to Mary Elizabeth Donaldson. He is survived by his wife, two sons, and four daughters: Harry Lehr of Lincoln, George Lehr of Wilmington, California, Daisy Sage of Ontario, Oregon, Elizabeth Huff of Brlken Bow, Frances Eckhoff of Archer, and Addie Whaley of Central City.

He came to Lone Tree at the age of seventeen years and has continued a resident of Merrick County since that early day. He engaged in farming and later followed the carpenter's trade.

From the obituary in Central City Republican, August 8, 1929.

## MARY LEHR

Mary Lehr was born December 23, 1862 at Walkerton, Indiana. She died at Central City, Nebraska, February 5, 1940. She was a teacher at the age of eighteen. She was married to Edward W. Lehr, January 29 1880.

A few years after their marriage, they moved to the farm which later occupied by the Standers. In 1893, they settled in Archer. Mr. Lehr died August 2, 1929. She became the operator of the Archer Telephone Exchange.

The Lehr's seven children were: Charles E., died in infancy, Daisy McCullough, Stanfield, Oregon, Frances Eckhoff of Archer, Harry of Lincoln, Addie Whaley of Central City, and George W. of Wilmington, California

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Fred Marsh in his North Midland tribute to Mr. Lehr in the Central City Republican tells that Ed Lehr was a charter student in School Distric 24, Comstock School.

FROM INEZ ECKHOFF LONGDON

I am sorry I didn't get back to the Centennial. I am not one to write aricles, but I have many pleasant memories from my life in Archer. May I just ramble on?

I was at home because I was sick the day the old schoolhouse burned down. I don"t really remember going to school in the old building. Maybe I was too young. I do recall that Pearl Woodward Willis was my first teacher. In fact, she was the one who inspired me to be a teacher. Geneva Brannan Woodward was also my teacher. She taught me in the grammar room. It really is interesting that my mother taught both Pearl and Cort Woodward; Pearl and Geneva taught me; and I taught two of Cort's and Geneva's boys, Jim and Edgar.

My first year of teaching was at "Stovepoker School". I used to drive our cows to pasture about two miles north of Archer. My mother would pick me up in the car and take me on to "Stovepoker". After school she would get me and leave me at the pasture to drive our cows back home.

As you may recall, my dad sold and delivered milk to people in Archer. Every year at Christmas time, we would make a trip to Central City or Grand Island to buy presents for all the kids on my dad's on my dad's milk route. He loved kids and was so generous.

Vera Van Pelt and I were good friends. I remember we used to ice skate on the ditches along the road. Vera and I had a secret tree in our pasture. We used to have a short board in one and we would sit there to tell secrets, but we usually couldn't think of a thing to say.

When my dad had the drug store, one Christmas he got two mama dolls in, the first. Ramona Gardner and I got them for Christmas.

Some of us kids used to play in my dad's lumber yard, running on the overhead walks and climing on the lumber.

I taught for three years in Archer in the primary room and got $60 per month for nine months. I had received $40 permonth at Stovepoker, and had to do my own janitor work. I remember "Dad" Reed who was the janitor at the Archer School. He got sick one time and some of us kids went over to see him. He lived in a rather dirty house and didn't have a wife. I remember how upset my mother was because we kids went over to see him. I think he died shortly after that.

Some of the fun things were having wiener roasts south of town and playing singing games. The boys from the Ridge came and were so much fun. Then a bunch of us used to go to Dannebrog in a large truck to roller skate. We always went to church and Sunday School. I remember walking home from the Christmas program on Christmas Eve in the snow. How it squeaked or crunched uner our feet. I could see the glow from our base burner in the dining room as we approached home.

Genevieve Stander Brink and I were such good friends. So were Herbert Stander and my brother Dean. Each Sunday, we would go to each other's house. If I went to Gen's, then Herbert came to our house, or vice versa.

As I was older and would go back to Archer, we would always go to see Mr. and Mrs. Charles Woodward. They were a wonderful couple. We had good times with Ruth and Pearl too.

Some of us used to ice skate on Prairie Creek. I remember skating with Maxine and Geraldine Zamzow.

Such are some of my memories of Archer.

Inez Eckhoff Longdon.

# WILLIAM JOHNSTON

Mr. Johnston was born in Indiana, September 2, 1860 and is the son of Alexander and Susan (Farrington) Johnston. He was the youngest in a family of three children, having one brother in Galesburg, Illinois and one sister, Mrs. George Ferris, residing in Merrick County. The father died in 1863 and the mother in February 1909 in Central City, Nebraska.

In 1860 the family moved to Galesburg, Illinois where Mr. Johnston, the subject of this sketch, received his education and was later employed in a dry goods store in Galesburg for four years and came with his mother and family to Merrick County, Nebraska in 1879. Here Mr. Johnston purchased 80 acres of land on Section 2, Township 14, Range 7, West, which is still his home place, known as "Fairview Ranch."

On June 1, 1881, Mr. Johnston was married to Myra A. Jewell of New York State, and later of Nebraska, who was a teacher in the Nebraska schools.

Mr. and Mrs. Johnston have had nine children, eight of whom are living. Charles A., who resides at home, James N., married and has two children, twin boys and lives in Merrick County; Robert W. resides at home; George A. is married and lives in Merrick County; Hattie M., deceased in 1897; Frank N., resides at home; Cecil J., also at home, as are Cora L. and Willie S.

--From Compendium of History, Reminiscence, and Biography of Nebraska, Alden Publishing Company, Chicago, 1912

# FRED ALEXANDER MARSH

Of pioneer parentage, Fred A. Marsh was born at Central City, Nebraska, November 21, 1871, and for sixty years he has lived continuously in Merrick County. William E. Marsh, his father, was born in Kent County, Ontario, Canada, November 8, 1832, and remained there until 1852 where he aided in clearing land on the family homestead. As a young man he moved to Detroit, Michigan, where he entered the practice of dentistry, but a little later gave up the profession because of his health and entered the service of Western Union Telegraph Company. In 1869 he moved to Merrick County and homesteaded in Midland Township where he was prominent in the progress of the middlewest; he was successful as a farmer and stockman until 1917 when he died at Archer, Nebraska.

Mary Ladoska Parker, mother of Fred A. Marsh, was born near Olean, New York, April 17, 1838 moving to Nebraska in 1858. She was engaged in the mercantile business in Denver, Colorado, for several years and later was the owner and manager of a hotel in Virginia City, Montana. She returned to Nebraska in 1867. She knew the provations and hardships of early settlers in Nebraska and was a typical pioneer homebuilder. Her death occured at Archer, October 31, 1920.

Mr. Marsh attended rural schools in Merrick County, was a student at Central College for two years and in 1892 was graduated from Fremont Normal School. He served as county superintendent of schools for eight years and has been engaged in farming and stock raising in Merrick County for many years. At this time he is a regent of the University of Nebraska. He has been the teacher of the Men's Bible Class in the Methodist Episcopal Church for thirty-five years and has written many articles for the Central City Republican during that time.

He is a member of K. O. T. M., contributes regularly to various welfare organizations at Archer, and until recently was president of the Merrick County Historical Association. During the World War he helped to secure funds for the Red Cross, Young Men's Christian Association, and Salvation Army.

He was united in marriage at Central City, April 19, 1893, to Virginia Ivy Crites. Mrs. Marsh, who was born at Central City, November 23, 1871, is the daughter of William H. and Phoebe Saxton Crites. To this marriage the following children were born: Earl C. married Mary E. Perisho; Erma L. who married Raymond D. Mesner; Marion F. who married Lillie Belle Mesner; Elizabeth M. married Daniel Jensen in 1935; W. Warren who married Virginia Peters in 1941; Portia who married Theodore Reeves and Dorothy, born January 10, 1913 and died January 17, 1913. All the children received liberal educations. Residence: Archer.

--From NEBRASKANA, The Baldwin Company, Hebron, Nebraska, 1932

# THE McCUTCHEN FAMILY

Robert George McCutchen, my grandfather, born in 1840 in South Carolins, came west for a new beginning after the Civil War. With his mother and sisters he homesteaded and lived in a dugout on the bank of Sand Creek in Cass County, Nebraska, near Ashland. On December 5, 1881, he married Anne Mahany of Waverly. Children were Margaret Lee born September 7, 1882, Daniel Stonewall Jackson, born September 29, 1883, and my father Robert Edmun Lee McCutchen, born June 23, 1889. (Grandfather was proud of his Confederate leaders!)

A 480 acre farm a mile north of Archer was purchased and in 1903 the family became Merrick County residents. Dan became an attorney and lived in Belle Fouche, South Dakota. Margaret taught school and also served for many years as County Superintendent of Schools. My grandmother, Anne Mahany McCutchen acquired a bit of noteriety when she enrolled in the University of Nebraska at age 69

Robert Edmun(Ed) McCutchen married Arta Camilla Hansen, February 11, 1913. Robert E. McCutchen (that's me, Bob) was born April 21, 1920; Jack was born December 17, 1923; Dan on December 30, 1930. As kids we walked or rode our bikes one and one fourth miles to a one room school, and would have scoffed at anyone who might have considered us deprived. There wasn't much cash money during depression years. One year our Model-T didn't leave the barn until April because of lack of cash to buy license plates. The drouth of the Dust Bowl 30's had times when we didn't see the sun for ten days stralght on account of blowing dust. Some years the farm did not pay for its seed, but we had a shallow well to irrigate the garden and we always had a big one. Mother canned lots of vegetables and meat. When cold weather came, there was a pig and a steer to butcher, and we hunted pheasants, rabbit, squirrel, and ducks. I remember Dad hitching a team to a wagon load of wheat, leaving early in the morning and returning that evening with cracked wheat for cereal and flour for baking.

In 1937 an automobile-train accident killed the County Judge and Dad was appointed to fill out the term, but was defeated for election in 1938. Dad sold the farm in 1940 and eventually relocated in Denver, where he died in 1965. A part of the shell of our old farmhouse built by Wickham in 1898 still stands one and three fourth miles northeast of Archer.

Jack received his high school diploma from East Denver High School when he received his wings and a commission as a second lieutenant pilot in WWII. He was killed in action December 24, 1944. Dan graduated from the Colorado School of Mines at Golden, Colorado. He now resides in Roswell, Georgia.

When I left Merrick County,in the spring of 1939, the county was leaving with me via dust storms so bad we could hardly see to drive. I called Denver home for several years, served in Europe with the USAF in WWII, spent nearly thirty years in Hawaii, and now live in Longmont, Colorado.

Submitted by Bob McCuthcen
Longmont Colorado.

From Deacon Gardner's items, Central City Republican, Jan. 19, 1911

Robert G. McCutcheon, judging from this report, is having the time of his life. He is now on his father's old plantation where he was born on May 14, 1840. The place is near Williamsburg, South Carolina. He had gone to the old home church which was built in the year 1760 and last week he walked all over the old plantation with his former negro body servan, a negro who had named himself Robert George McCutcheon. They were playmates. They met again after so many years and are very happy in each other's company. His old acquaintances told him that they knew he would make good--a man who started from South Carolina from the South after the war with nothing but an ox team to Nebraska.

DAN McCUTCHEON

Dan McCutcheon studied law at the University of Nebraska. After his graduation he took charge of the government land office at Pierre, South Dakota. He entered a private law office at Belle Fouche, S.D. He was mayor of Belle Fouche for ten years. He urged a great irrigation project for the Belle Fouche area which brought the sugar beet industry there. Besides his private practice, he was attorney for the sugar beet refinery, attorney for the Northwestern Railway and one of the directors for the Belle Fouche Bank.

# McCutchen rites held in Colorado

Services for Robert Emil McCutchen, 67, Longmont, Colo. were held Wednesday, Jan. 27, 10 a.m. at the First Christian Church in Longmont, with the Rev. Dale McCann officiating. Burial was in the Ft. Logan National Cemetery at Denver.

Mr. McCutchen died January 24 at his home. He was born April 21, 1920 to Robert Edmund and Arta Hansen McCutchen at Central City. He was raised at Archer.

He married Viola Richter February 19, 1943 at St. Louis, Missouri.

He was discharged November 12, 1945 after serving with the U.S. Army in Normandy, North France, Rhineland, Ardennes and Central Europe. Following his discharge he made his home in Denver where he became an Air Traffic Controller in 1951. He lived in Indianapolis from 1956-1961, moving to Honolulu until 1981 when he moved to Longmont.

He was a member of the First Christian Church at Longmont.

Survivors include his wife Viola McCutchen of Longmont; a son Jack E. McCutchen of Salem, Oregon; a daughter, Helen Marie Ellena of Longmont; brother Dan McCutchen of Roswell, Georgia and six grandchildren.

Preceding him in death were his parents and a brother, Jack.

Central City Republican-

Nonpareil, Feb. 4, 1988

Bob McCutchen was an enthusiastic attendant at the Archer Centennial Celebration. He contributed stories of the Hansen and McCutchen families to our Centennial Book.

# ELIJAH McKENDRY

Elijah McKendry, retired farmer, son of Elijah and Susan Kiggen McKendry, was born in Beverly, Ohio, October 31, 1844 and was the ninth in a family of ten children. He has two brothers and one sister residing in Ohio, one sister in Iowa and the others are deceased. The father died in the year of 1883 and the mother in 1872; both passed away in the home state.

Mr. McKendry received his education in his native state and in July, 1861, enlisted in Company A, Thirty-sixth Ohio Volunteer Infantry, receiving his discharge in July 1864 at Chatanooga, Tennessee. Decisive engagements participated in were at Chicamauga, Mission Ridge, Antietam, South Mountain, second battle of Bull Run, Cloyd Mountain, Lewisburg, West Virginia and many other engagements and skirmishes. In August of 1864 he enlisted in the United States navy, inwhich he served one year, then he returned to Ohio where he followed the occupation of shoemaking, he having learned and worked at that trade before entering the army.

On August 8, 1867 Mr. McKendry was married to Miss Margaret J. Davis of Ohio and in the spring of 1871 came with his wife and two children to Merrick County, Nebraska and homesteaded 160 acres of land in Section 2, Township 14, Range 7 West, which remained the home place until 1874, when having been eaten out by grasshoppers, Mr. McKendry went to Rock Springs, Wyoming, where he worked to support his family who remained in Nebraska. In the meantime Mr. McKendry had sold his homestead and purchased in 1876 a 160 acre timber claim three miles north of Archer where he lived until 1899 when they moved to Archer. Here he built a good home which is now his present residence. Mr. McKendry has served on the school-board of his district #43 for some years.

Mr. and Mrs. McKendry have had ten children born to them, six of whom are living: Charles, deceased in 1901 is survived by his wife and four children who reside in California; John, who is married, has five children and lives in Central City, Nebraska; William A., deceased in infancy; Clara, deceased at the age of five years; Jessie, maried Harry Morse, has five children and resides in Grand Island, Nebraska; Albert, deceased at the age of 17 years; Winifred, maried to Ward Morse, lives in Colorado Springs and has one child; Lenna, married to Roy Frederick, has one child and lives in Chappel, Nebraska; James A., resides in Lincoln, Nebraska; and Leon who lives under the parental roof.

Mr. and Mrs. McKendry are among the earliest settlers of the county and have passed through all the hardships and trying experiences of frontier life. They were the first homesteaders in Midland Township.

--From the Compendium of History, Reminiscence, and Biography of Nebraska, Alden Publishing Company, Chicago 1912

# ADOLPH NITZEL

Adolph Nitzel, one of the prominent residents of Section 3, Township 14, Range 7, Merrick County, Nebraska, has spent many years in this part of the country, and is known as a man of energetic habits and sterling qualities.

Mr. Nitzel is a native of Dekalb County, Illinois, born in Sandwich, November 16, 1864 and was the eighth child in the family of Henry and Christina (Immel) Nitzel, who had four sons and five daughters. Our subject lived in Illinois until 13 years of age.

In March, 1878 the Nitzel family of mother, two sons, William and Adolph, and daughter Minnie moved from Illinois to Merrick County, Nebraska. Henry Nitzel, the father, had died in Illinois in the fall of 1868. The family had purchased 80 acres on Section 3, Township 14, Range 7, of the Union Pacific Railroad in 1871 and upon moving to Nebraska built on this 80 which became the home farm. They have since added to this land at different times until the Nitzel family own about 600 acres.

Adolph Nitzel from his thirteenth year grew up on the farm and received such advantages of local schooling, etc. In his twenty-first year he went to Rock County, Nebraska and took up a homestead.

On March 18, 1981 Mr. Nitzel was married to Miss Sophia Van Pelt, a native of Ohio but whose family came from Ohio to Merrick County, Nebraska in 1879. Mr. and Mrs. Nitzel made the Rock County homestead their home until the fall of 1892, when Mr. Nitzel purchased 200 acres of the Nitzel home farm of his mother, and moved from Rock County back to the old original home farm where he now resides.

Mr. Nitzel is a self-made man, successful and now owns 280 acres and is a prosperous farmer and stockman, making a specialty of Shorthorn cattle. He also holds the position of shipper for the Archer Shipping Association. He is a quiet man along political lines, but has always taken an active interest in the upbuilding of his home and affairs of his county and state.

Mr. and Mrs. Nitzel have three children: Lloyd, Jefferson, and Paul, and they are an interesting family. Mrs. Nitzel's mother and brother live on an adjoining farm to the east.

--From Compendium of History, Reminiscence, and Biography of Nebraska, Alden Publishing Company, Chicago, 1912

Dr. Charles Paxton, daughter Grace, and wife Louise, nee Wagner.

Family Memories
by Lena Rankin Sullivan

Margaret Rankin, Avis Gillham, Lena Rankin
and Phelma Gillham at District 24

I was born at Burlington Junction, near Tarkio, Missouri on February 21, 1901. Shortly after that my family moved to Emerson, Iowa. It was there my sister Margaret, and brothers Kenneth and Everett (Mike) were born.

In the fall of 1908 my father bought a farm from Webster Farnham, 2 miles east and $\frac{1}{4}$ mile south of Archer, Nebraska. In the spring of 1909 we moved to Archer. My youngest sister, Evangeline, was born December 28, 1913 at our home. Dr. Paxton was the doctor in Archer then.

The Burlington railroad track ran through the middle of our farm. On hot summer days we always kept old gunny sacks hanging on the water tank to fight the fires started by the train. Our house was just two feet from the right away fence and in the spring of 1914 a spark from the train set the house on fire and it burned to the ground.

Howard Brannan had a bunk house which they did not use and it was moved to our place. My mother had a cookstove, small table, and a few chairs in where she cooked for the family and the carpenters while they were building our new house. We had a tent with two beds where we kids slept. The carpenters, Mr. Holtz and Mr. Galley, slept in the hay mow.

We all attended District 24 school. I attended 9th grade in Archer and graduated from Central City High in 1919.

In the fall of 1920 I started working in Archer for Bonness & Dipple General Store. The store was a very busy place. In those

days all the farmers north around the Loup River and surrounding country shipped their herds of cattle and loads of hogs from Archer to market. Lots of Saturday nights we had large crowds and worked until 10 or 11 o'clock.

Phocian Hansen taught me to sack sugar, beans, rice, etc. Ten pounds of sugar for $1.00.

The store was broken into and robbed twice during the four years that I worked there. Working at the store was a very enjoyable experience for me. I met many very nice people, many of whom were gone when we later moved back to Archer and I missed them.

On September 15, 1924 I married Edward Sullivan. Vera Van Pelt tells how she and some of the girls would stand around and listen when Edward came to see me in the store.

We lived on the old Sullivan farm 1½ miles north and 1 mile east of Archer for 17 years. Edward farmed and was also a welder and machinist in a shop at our home. Our daughter, Janet, was born at that home.

In 1941 the Government was asking for welders at the ship yards in Washington State. Edward started for Washington but stopped in Denver and found work there. We moved to Denver in 1941. Edward did welding for the government during the war at the shop of Merrill Wheel & Axle. After the war he worked for Mr. Merrill, Manager of the truck shop. He retired in 1968, at which time we moved back to Archer. We had no buildings on the Sullivan farm, so we bought the home of Phocian and Dora Hansen in Archer. At this time I still live there. Edward passed away October 12, 1985.

Hulda Zamzow and friends on the railroad track near Rankins two miles southeast of Archer.

# ROBERT LEE RANKIN

Robert Lee Rankin, son of John and Ella Humphrey Rankin was born at Emerson, Iowa, May 9, 1871, and died at his home near Central City, September 15, 1940.

When a small boy, he moved with his family to Arkansas, then in a few years moved to a home near Tarkio, Missouri, where he grew to manhood.

He was united in marriageto Euphemia Manifold at Tarkio, Missouri. To this union six children were born, the oldest, a son Russell, passed away at the age of eighteen months. In 1902, they moved to Emerson, Iowa. They lived there for six years, then moved to the present farm home near Central City.

His survivors are his wife, two sons Kenneth and Everett, three daughters, Lena Sullivan, Margaret Johnston, and Evangeline Johnston.

Central City Republican

September 19, 1940

# MILTON H. RAWLINGS

Milton H. Rawlings, son of James and Rebecca Russell Rawlings, was born in Bloomfield, Iowa, November 6, 1853, and was the seventh of nine children. He has one brother residing in Saunders County, Nebraska, one in the state of Wyoming, another in Missouri, and still another in California, two sisters who reside in Iowa; the other children being deceased. The parents are also deceased, the father having died in the state of Nebraska, the mother in Iowa.

Mr. Rawlings received his education in the schools of his home state, and later engaged in farming. In 1878, he went to Mt. Vernon, Missouri, where he engaged in the drug and grocery business for two years, then after spending the following winter in Iowa came to Saunders County, Nebraska, in the spring of 1880, coming to Merrick County in 1887, locating in Archer and engaging in the hardware business for a couple of years and then bought 80 acres of the road in section 18, to which he moved and where he lived two years and then moved to his present farm on section 15 where he has since continued to live.

On January 6, 1880, Mr. Rawlings was joined in wedlock to Miss Eliza Dooley. Mrs. Rawlings died in 1898, survived by her husband and three children whose names follow: Mamie, is married to Elwin Secoy, and has two children and lives in Merrick County; J. Oren has four children and lives near Archer; and Samuel, who is married and lives in Merrick County.

Mr. Rawlings has been prosperous and successful and owns 540 acres of land under cultivation, all of which is in Merrick County. He has served his county four years as supervisor, and also as the director of school district #43, for some years very creditably.

--From Compendium of History, Reminiscence and Biography of Nebraska, Alden Publishing Company, Chicago, 1912

# THE SAMPSON FAMILY HISTORY

Donald Sampson, a retired Central City attorney, relates in his autobiography, his paternal family history. His great grandmother, Sophia Zamzow, came from Pomerania, Prussia, which is now a part of Communist dominated Poland. She brought with her four sons, Gottlieb, Gottfried, Albert and Frank, and settled near Portage, Wisconsin.

In 1874, Sophia and her youngest sons, Frank and Albert, came to Merrick County, Nebraska and settled about four miles west of Archer in a community of German people, most of whom came from Pomerania via Portage, Wisconsin.

Will Sampson, Donald's father, was born in Wisconsin, September 15, 1873. He was about a year old when he came to Nebraska. The immigration and census records give the family name as Sampson. Most of the family chose to keep the original name, Zamzow. Will, however, preferred the anglicized version. He and his descendents have gone by the name Sampson.

Albert, Donald's grandfather, and his wife, Jonanne Loeffelbein Zamzow, had a large family. Donald describes the family gatherings thus:

"Needless to say, there was a complete family reunion of Grandpa Albert's family, but I can distinctly remember two with as many people as could be gotten together at one time. There was a huge kitchen in the old house with room for two long tables, probably each seating about twelve. There had to be some order of feeding so all the men were first seated and fed. We kids bided our time by playing outside. When the men were all finished, all the kids were ushered in and a second complete meal was furnished. When we kids had finished, we were ushered out and the women folk had the third meal. I don't remember ever running out of any kind of food."

Donald's maternal grandfather, George Ferris lived five miles northeast of Archer. He described himself as "just plain Yankee". He was born October 5, 1851, near St. Edward, New York. In 1873, he went to Rock Springs, Wyoming, and became a mule skinner in the coal mines. He made a friend,

Elijah McKendry, in the coal mines. He stopped to see Mr. McKendry who had homesteaded in Midland Township on SW¼ of Section 2-14-7 and built a cabin on it. Mr. Ferris bought Mr. McKendry's homestead with a down payment of a gold watch and $200.

Mr. Ferris married Mary Johnston whose brother William settled on the farm east of the Ferris place. The wedding took place at Galesburg, Illinois. Ferris decendants still own George Ferris's original farm.

The Ferris and Zamzow families were good customers of Bonness and Dippel's store. Grandfather Albert Zamzow solicited votes for Donald when he was a little boy for the little red automobile which they were giving away. A youngster could ride in it and drive it with his feet on pedals and control the steering wheel. Becuse of his grandfather's hard work, Donald won the car.

From Donald Sampson's Autobiography.

# ORA SAMPSON

Mrs. Ora Sampson, a life time resident of Merrick County, passed away in Central City, on January 10, at the age of 74 years.

The daughter of George H. and Mary Ferris, she was born near Archer, Nebraska, February 12, 1882. She received her early education in the Gardner School. At an early age she was united with the Fairview Methodist Church.

In March, 1900, she was married to William Sampson at the Ferris home near Archer. They lived near Archer until 1922 at which time they moved to Central City.

She is survived by one son, Donald F. Sampson of Central City and one daughter, Mary Belle Gordon of Salem, Oregon; one brother Lisle Ferris, and one sister Mamie Gardner of Oakland, California, four grandchildren and four great grandchildren.

Central City Republican Nonpareil
January 17, 1957

# THE JULIUS SCHMALTZ FAMILY

In 1908 Julius Schmaltz arrived at Archer, Nebraska from La Crosse, Wisconsin. He loved good horses and had gone to St. Paul to see a gentleman who was a well known breeder of Belgian horses. He stopped in Central City to change trains and heard that work was available. Over the years he helped in harvest work at Archer, cut ice, did carpenter work, and eventually became the proud owner of a threshing machine and did custom work. During this time he met and began courting Hulda Zamzow who was a clerk in the well known Bonness and Dippel store. She was one of fourteen children of Frank and Minnie Zamzow who had homesteaded near Archer.

In 1917 Julius was one of the first men in Midland Township to be asked to fight for his country in World War I. He was stationed at Camp Funston, Kansas and after being told that he would not leave Camp Funston but would be used to train others, he and Hulda were married in the Methodist Church in Manhattan, Kansas, on April 20, 1918. Just three weeks later he was sent overseas. Hulda continued her work at Bonness's where she worked for a total of ten years. Julius had several close calls but he was able to return to Archer in the spring of 1919. As he tells the story, the servicemen were discharged with $60.00 and a good luck wish.

They settled in Archer and Julius worked for Will Templin. A daughter, Betty Beyrle was born on August 31, 1920. Sonn thereafter, he Schmaltzes moved the Will Templin farm when the Templins moved to Central City. On November 11, 1922, twins were born to this union with a son named Robert, the surviving twin. In 1935 the Schmaltzes moved to a farm near Central City to take advantage of their music program. Both children were very active in all the choral activities and the entire family took active part in the activities of the Methodist Church. Those were rough times on the farm in Nebraska but Julius and Hulda always had a garden and guests were always welcome and well fed. During the

winter months nephews, nieces, schoolteachers, and others spent happy times withe the Schmaltzes. Betty graduated in 1938, attended Nebraska Central College for two years, and then taught in Marquette and Alliance before marrying H. Vernon Unger, a serviceman from Frankfort, Indiana on December 22, 1942. Robert graduated in 1941 and attended the University of Nebraska, became a plumber, and married Leoda Reich in January of 1943.

Hulda and Julius farmed in the Central City area until 1960 and then retired to an acreage on the western edge of Central City. Julius served as a county cupervisor and was active in Republican politics. Both of them were very active in Eastern Star and all Masonic, Knights Templar, and Shrine activities in addition to work in the United Methodist Church in Central City. Hulda had a beautiful alto voice and sang in church choirs, community choruses, and for untold numbers of funerals in and around Archer and Central City. The Zamzow family at one time, had a Family Band and Chorus that would present programs for many community gatherings. Pitch was the favorite game of the Schmaltzes and neighborhood parties are fond memories. At the acreage they had beautiful flowers and garden produce which they shared with many and in the winter months they shared cookies with shut ins.

In 1981 they moved to Sunset Manor and in 1984 they retired to Merrick Manor where Julius passed away soon after his 96th birthday. Hulda now resides in Bethesda Care Center after a fall. Their daughter has three sons and six grandchildren and still resides on the farm in Frankfort, Indiana, following the death of her husband, Vernon, in November of 1985. Their son Robert, and his wife are retired in Corpus Christi, Texas. Hid two children reside in Lincoln, Nebraska and he also has six grandchildren.

Hulda and Julius's motto was and still is:

"Count your age by friends not years
Count your life by smiles not tears."

Betty Schmaltz Unger

# JULIUS SCHMALTZ CAPTURES GERMANS
(from a Central City Paper)

Mrs. Julius Schmaltz of Archer is in receipt from her husband, Julius Schmaltz, who is on the battle lines "somewhere in France" in which he describes the battle, and tells how he alone captured ten German prisoners. He was on guard one night very close to the enemy lines when he heard a noise in one of the dug-outs. Going close to it he drew his gun for protection with the result that ten Germans surrendered to him without putting any fight at all.

From letters received from abroad, it is learned that in every squad of men it is planned to have someone that can talk German, and as Mr. Schmaltz can talk German, he was assigned to that task in his squad. When he was on duty, the lines were very close, and using a little strategy he began to converse with the enemy in German with the result that he got very close to the dug-out, and when he had everything in readiness, he called upon the Germans to surrender, which they did, and he marched them proudly back to his camp.

Mr. Schmaltz is very well known in this county, and was one of the first boys to go across, and his many friends are proud to hear such good reports of him, and hope that he may be spared to perform many more such feats.

# Jessie Sinsel

Jessie B. Sinsel, daughter of Jacob B. and Martha D. Templin was born in Central City, Nebraska, Dec. 6, 1882. She attended school in District 43 near Archer and Central City High School after which she spent two and a half years studying music at Nebraska Wesleyan University.

She taught music in and around Archer and also in the Loup Valley north of Archer.

On December 31, 1900, she was married to Carl Sinsel. They lived in Clarksburg, West Virginia until they moved to his father's farm two and a half miles south of Archer in the fall of 1912. Mr. Sinsel died there in the fall of 1916.

She lived with her mother in Archer where she worked in the Archer Elevator office for a time, then in the Citizens State Bank until her mother moved to Central City in 1918.

She became deputy county treasurer in which capacity she served until elected county treasurer in the fall of 1923. She was in that office for eight years.

# WILLIAM F. SINSEL

William F. Sinsel, farmer, son of John and Sarah (Curry) Sinsel was born in Taylor County, West Virginia. He was the fourth in a family of fourteen children and has one brother residing in Merrick County, Nebraska and one sister living in Grafton, West Virginia. His mother died in March, 1895 in Nebraska, and his father in 1864 in West Virginia.

Mr. Sinsel received his education in local subscription schools, and in the fall of 1862 entered the United States railroad bridge service and served during the war. While at work on a bridge at Bridgeport, West Virginia, he was taken prisoner in the famous Jones Raid, and held six months and one day in Libby Prison and Castle Thunder. After the war, Mr. Sinsel returned to West Virginia and continued on bridge service for the Louisville and Nashville Railroad through Kentucky and Tennessee until 1866.

On September 6, 1866, Mr. Sinsel was married to Miss Fannie Holden of West Virginia. After farming nine years in West Virginia, Mr. and Mrs. Sinsel came to Merrick County, Nebraska and homesteaded eighty acres of land in section thirty-two, township fourteen, range seven; also timber claimed eighty acres adjoining and purchased one hundred sixty acres of railroad land. They have lived on the homestead all through the years since that time.

Mr. Sinsel served as county commissioner a number of years and has also been director of his school district, number forty-six for many years.

Mr. and Mrs. Sinsel have had seven children born to them, four of whom are living. Charles J. who lives in Boise City, Idaho; Guy R., married and has two children and lives in Parkersburg, West Virginia; Thayer A. lives in Boise City, Idaho, and Carl W. who is married and resides at Parkersburg, West Virginia. Mr. and Mrs. Sinsel have been Baptist church workers.

--From Compendium of History, Reminiscence, and Biography of Nebraska, published in 1912 by Alden Publishing Company, Chicago.

# LLOYD (TOM) STALKER

Lloyd Stalker, known as "Tom" was the third oldest of twelve children born to Captain Malcom Stalker and Nina May Kronkright Stalker.

Tom was born in Petersburg, Nebraska on July 19, 1907. When Tom was five years old, he moved with his family to a farm one mile north and one and one half miles west of Archer. The family moved by horses and wagons. He attended grade school at District 43, Stovepoker.

Elsie Banish was the next to the youngest of seven children born to Simon Peter and Tillie Estinia Vogt Banish. Elsie was born at Bloomfield, Nebraska on May 9, 1912. The family lived several places in this area and later moved to a farm three miles north of Chapman, Nebraska. Elsie attended grade school at Chapman.

Tom and Elsie were married on June 2, 1926 at Smith Center, Kansas.

Tom and Elsie lived in Archer, Chapman, and Rushville and settled in Archer in 1933. They were the parents of four children: Norma Jean, Donald Lloyd, Barbara Anne, and Doyle Leon.

Tom worked at several jobs as a hired hand for farmers for $1.00 a day, school janitor, and a maintainer operator. While employed on the maintainer he was involved in a train wreck in Archer on October 22, 1938. He was hospitalized for three weeks with broken ribs and neck vertabrae. The accident occurred on Norma's eleventh birthday.

During the war years Tom was employed at the Defense Plant and Airport in Grand Island. After the war was over Tom and Carl Banish purchased the garage in Archer from Park Grace.

Several years later Tom was employed with road construction and lived in Kansas and Nebraska. They settled in Omaha in 1967.

Tom died March 8, 1973 from a massive heart attack. He is buried in Burke Cemetery northwest of Central City.

Tom and Elsie liked to play cards and attend home baseball games.

Elsie moved to North Platte in 1977 to live with her daughter Barbara and family. She still likes to play cards, assemble quilts and quilts them. She is in fairly good health.

She has eighteen grandchildren and nineteen great great grandchildren.

by Norma Stalker Van Pelt

# EDWARD SULLIVAN Sr.

Edward Thomas Sullivan, son of Henry and Mary Miller Sullivan, was born at Somerville, New Jersey, April 4, 1860. When he was still a small child, the family started for Canada, but the death of his mother caused the abandonment of the trip. For a time, he lived at Southampton, Massachusetts, and he studied music at Albany, New York. He became a proficient instrumental player and was a band leader at various places. His bands were in demand at many functions to furnish music on such occasions as the launching of ships and even at a presidential inauguration.

About the year of 1880, he moved to Illinois with a foster brother. In 1881 he moved to Palmer, Nebraska, and a year later to the farm near Archer which was to be his home for sixty years.

As a child, he became a member of the Episcopal Church and as a young man, joined the Masonic Order, being a member of Lone Tree Lodge No. 36 A.F. and A.M. at Central City at the time of his death.

On June 7, 1894, he was united in marriage to Mabel Lea Bartlett at Archer, Nebraska. In addition to his wife, he is survived by four children, Horace Wyndham,Palmer, Nebraska, Virginia Ferris of Central City, Edward T. of Denver, Colorado, and J. Bartlett of Los Angeles, California and eight grandchildren. A brother Wyndham and a sister Callie preceded him in death.

From the obituary of
Edward T. Sullivan Sr.
Central City Republican
Nov. 12, 1942

# HISTORY OF FRANK TEICHMEIER

Frank Teichmeier was born in Germany, October 12, 1873. At a young age his parents and brothers and sisters immigrated to the United States. What year, I do not recall. He worked as a hired man for many people in Grand Island, Central City, Archer, and Boelus. He had a brother Fred living on a farm near Boelus and another brother, Gus, who lived in Grand Island and worked for the railroad. Gus was killed by a train. He was unable to get his hand car off the tracks for some unknown reason. He also had three sisters in Nebraska, Mrs. Richard Weisner in Grand Island, Mrs. Augusta Noffke near Grand Island, Mrs. Bertha Kruegel who lived near Worms on a farm now owned by Bill Kurz. She retired in Palmer. She was my grandmother and Frank was my great Uncle. "Tack" worked for Frank Wagner for many years. He finally decided to move to Archer where he purchased that little property across the road north of where Bill Green lives. Emil Hansen lived where Bill Green lives. He owned the cream station and "Tack" hauled cream by horse power and wagon for many years. He had a spring scale hanging on the wagon which he would have to weigh the can of cream and it was emptied at the creamery. The can had to be weighed again. He would come rain or shine. The last place would be my parents' place, Adam Doncheske. He would manage to make it by dinner time which we kids really enjoyed. We loved Uncle Frank. Some days it would be pouring rain and he was soaked to the skin. Our mother would have him change into some dry shirts and overalls. You can imagine what 'Tack" looked like, my dad being a short man and Tack taller. He didn't mind. He just laughed and so did we. The next week he came and my mother had washed his clothes and he returned dad's. He was quite the gardener. He had the best sweet potatoes. My folks would drive to Archer with horse and buggy and mother would clean his house. She prepared sweet potatoes for dinner. They were delicious with that good creamery butter. I don't recall when he retired from the creamery. When he left Archer, he bought a ranch at Burwell and had cattle and lots of hay to put up. He retired and came to Palmer, maybe in the forties. He bought the property now owned by Gladys Jamison, sister of Mrs. Norman Miller. He loved to play cards. He passed away suddenly at his home February 3, 1950. He is buried in the Palmer Cemetery. He would receive his letters with the Tack and Hammer sign.

--Submitted by Meta Doncheske,
Mrs. John Rudolf

# JACOB BEAM TEMPLIN

To the old residents of Merrick County, Jacob Beam Templin is remembered as county clerk, the position he held during the years 1882-83 and later he served as county treasurer entering upon four years of duty in 1890. To those of the younger generation, he is familiar as a merchant, having engaged for many years with Mr. E. Hansen of Archer in the creamery and mercantile business.

He was a member of the Methodist Episcopal Church.

Mr. Templin was born in Mahoning County, Ohio. At the time of his death, he was sixty-nine years, eleven months, and twenty-eight days of age. He was a commissioned officer, a lieutenant in the Sixth Ohio Volunteer Cavalry.

He was united in marriage to Miss Martha Armstrong. Nine children were born to this union, seven of whom are living, namely W. J. Templin, Archer, Leonard Templin, Central City, Mrs. G. W. Ayres, Lincoln, Mrs. E. B. Wilson, Worland, Wyoming, Mrs. E. R. Farnham, Wheatland, Wyoming, Mrs. C. W. Sinsel, Archer, and Mrs. W. W. Hall, Salem, Oregon.

From Ohio he moved to Palo, Michigan. In 1871, he moved to Merrick County and continued to live there until his death, Sept 15, 1912.

From his obituary,
Central City Republican

# JEFFERSON D. VAN PELT

Mr. Van Pelt is the son of Jacob and Sophia (Chapin) Van Pelt, and was born in Meigs County, Ohio, January 19, 1845 and is the younger of two children, the sister residing in Ohio. Mr. Van Pelt's parents are deceased, the father died in 1851, in the state of Ohio and the mother in 1899 in the same state.

Mr. Van Pelt received his education in his native state, and later engaged in farming. On January 6, 1866 he maried Miss Mary Burleigh, also of Ohio, and who was a teacher in the Ohio schools. In September of 1879 Mr. Van Pelt came with his wife and five children to Merrick County, Nebraska, where he homesteaded 160 acres of land on Section 6, Township 14, Range 7 West and has since purchased 240 acres adjoining, making a fine stock and grain farm, where he has lived all through the years since his arrival. He has served as director of his school district #43 for many years.

Mr. and Mrs. Van Pelt have had six children born to them, whose names are as follows: Mayo who is maried and has five children; Sophia married to Mr. A. Nitzel, has three children and lives in Merrick County, and has one child; Iona is married to William Trebilcock, has three children and lives in Omaha, Nebraska; and Jesse D. who is married and lives in Nebraska.

Mr. Van Pelt is one of the earlier settlers of his county and has passed through many of the discouragements and trying experiences incidental to pioneer life.

--From Compendium of History, Reminiscence, and Biography of Nebraska, Alden Publishing Company, Chicago, 1912

# MAYO VAN PELT

My father, Mayo Van Pelt, came to Nebraska in the summer of 1880 with his mother, two brothers and two sisters. He was the oldest child and was 12 years old. They came by train to Central City and then out to the homestead where their father had come ahead and built a sod house for his family. It was located three miles north and one mile west of Archer. About four years later they built a two-story frame house three miles north and one-half mile west of Archer on land homesteaded by Mayo's grandmother. A little brother, Jesse, came to join the family circle.

Mayo and Nora Ecles were married in 1890 and five children came to bless this home. They lived on several farms until 1898 when they bought the old Lige McKendry farm. This farm had been a tree claim and has been in the Van Pelt family since 1898.

Mayo and Nora's children are Merna, who married Neva Conkrite and had four children: Fern, Orville, Lillian and Helen. Ethel married Roy Hesselgesser and they had one son, Vernon. Annice married Watson Hesselgesser and their children are: Clarence, Esther and Rozella. Cecil married Roy Lint and they had one daughter, Elnora. Leonard married Vera Woodward and they have nine children: Betty, DeWitt, Dwaine, Roger, Rhoda, Sharlene, Nora, Steve and Judy.

Mayo enjoyed playing horse shoes and was very interested in politics. He was a loving husband and father.

He suffered a massive heart attack and passed away May 27, 1933. He is buried in the Central City cemetery.

--Submitted by Leonard Van Pelt

# MILO VAN PELT

From Fred Marsh's "According To My Tell"
June 9, 1960

Milo Van Pelt's early life in Nebraska would be very much like my own. We spent a great deal of time together in those far off days. The other boys, John McKendry and Dustin Halsey (All of us about the same age), rounded out a quartet of congenial spirits. Prairie Creek was alive with fish and we enjoyed fishing, but I am sure that we spent more time swimming and that notwithstanding that turtles, some of them enormously large, offered a threat to our safety.

The Van Pelts arrived here in 1879 and Milo must have been nine years of age at that time. Ferdinand Halsey, a cousin who preceded them, had established residence in a vacated sod house right close to our place, which sheltered both families until a sod house could be built on Section 5-14-7 in Midland Township. It was on this place and another close by that Milo Van Pelt has spent most of the interesting 81 years. His school district (43) served first by a tiny red shack, was presently obliged to build a larger structure of sod which continued in use until the walls were ready to collapse. I attended that school one winter and the interesting things that happened would fill a small volume. That was the only time that Milo and I were actually schoolmates.

For that winter term school district 43 had secured San Kennedy, a teacher of considerable repute. Scholars from adjoining districts, admitted tuition free, came thronging. The schoolroom, although large, was crowded. The enrollment must have been close to 40. I cannot recall whether the floor was board or dirt. I think the latter. All furniture including the blackboard was handmade.

Young boys did less farm work than now, but we had plenty of hardships and vexations. One summer, Milo and I hearded cattle on Sections 9 and 16 in Midland, wide open at that time to anyone who could use the grass. Someone had the temerity to plant a small patch of corn right in the middle of this grazing area. The anxiety and leg weariness which we had to endure on that account is not pleasant to remember.

Milo Van Pelt lived a life of single devotion to his family. To him and his good wife their children owe the high rating which they enjoy in community life. For 81 years he was my faithful and dependable friend. In all of my ventures in the political arena, he was my staunch supporter, helping me not only with his vote but defending me from attacks by critics. Such friends are not found at every turn of the road.

# JACOB WEBER

Jacob Weber was born September 20, 1859 in Switzerland. At the age of six, he came to the United States by boat with his parents, four brothers, and one sister. They took up farming in the Archibald, Ohio area. He married Elizabeth Rachel Ann Turner. They continued farming until they moved by rail to Nebraska, where his wife, one son, and three daughters arrived in Central City, Christmas Eve, 1879. They lived in the first house south of the Friends Church until March 1, 1898 when they moved to the Howard Brannan farm two miles east of Archer. Later they moved to the Oren Rawlings farm. Later they bought a farm two miles north and one half mile west of Archer.

Two other daughters, Wilma and Fay, joined the family. Son Earl went to the Hastings and Guide Rock areas. He married Florence Guy and they farmed in that community.

Mattie married Will Wilson of the Archer vicinity. Vernie married James Johnston of Fairview. Ruth married Frank Hesselgesser and they farmed near Palmer. Wilma married Dr. Fred Fouts of Central City.

Fay passed away in 1918 at the young age of fifteen from the flu.

Mr. Weber worked as a road grader and was the overseer. He used horses to pull equipment.

Jake Weber was a dedicated Democrat and was very proud of the Nebraskan, William Jennings Bryan. He attended many political meetings.

Although he had only a fourth grade education, he read considerably. As they say, he was self-educated. I only wish that he could have lived to see the party conventions on TV. He would have enjoyed them.

His grandchildren were a joy to him and we all loved his gentle way. To me, he was one grand person.

He not only loved his grandchildren but he loved all children. He was a childhood idol to Cap Boelts because he often took the little boy for a ride on his road drag. "I'm going to be a road boss like Mr. Weber when I grow up," Cap said.

Submitted by his granddaughter,

Frances Johnston Holtz.

# FRANK AND MINNIE ZAMZOW FAMILY

Little is known of the Zamzow history prior to their coming to this country.

Apparently a Wilhelmina Schramm married a man by the name of Zamzow. They had one known son, Frederick, who married Sophia Koep. Sophia's birthdate is given as 1805. Frederick Zamzow died in Prussia, later known as Germany, and now a part of Poland. Sophia and four sons--Gottlieb, Gottfried, Albert and Frank, left Pommern, or Pomerania, Germany in April of 1862. Frank Zamzow was born in Storen, Pommerany, Germany on Sept. 6, 1847. The first official record of them is the 1870 U. S. Census of Columbia County, Wisconsin. Frank married Wilhelmina Nemitz on December 26, 1873. Wilhelmina was born March 22, 1857 at Zamaro, Germany. She with her parents and two brothers, Carl and August, left Germany on April 3, 1869 and arrived in Reedsburg, Wisconsin on May 26, 1869. Wilhelmina's parents were Ludwig Nemitz born February 17, 1825 at Pommeria, Germany and Fredericka Lucht born June 20, 1820 in Germany.

Soon after Frank and Wilhelmina Zamzow were married they travelled by covered wagon to Nebraska bringing her parents, Ludwig and Fredericka Nemitz, with them. Frank homesteaded the E. half SW quarter 30-14-7 in Merrick County and received a U. S. Government Patent to the same on January 20, 1883. Frank's mother later moved to Archer and lived with the Albert Zamzow family who resided just west of the Zion Church.

The two mothers, Sophia Zamzow and Fredericka Nemitz, were close friends. They often walked the road between the homes of Albert and Frank Zamzow. They expressed the desire to pass away on the same day and on January 29, 1887 God granted them that wish. They are both buried in the Zion Cemetery as is Wilhelmina's father who passed away on March 15, 1895.

In 1942, "Aunt Emma" as she was known to me, wrote the following account of our Grandparents' life in and around Archer, Nebraska.

## "Memories of Pioneer Days"

My parents, Mr. and Mrs. F. A. Zamzow, arrived in Merrick County via the covered wagon route October 22, 1874, being on the road since the first of October. They came from near Portage, Wisconsin. My mother's parents came with them. Father had been here previously and filed on a homestead located about three miles south and west of where the village of Archer now is. He later acquired some school land.

They lived a little while in a little board shack just a little east of the Evangelical church. Later they built a two-room sod house consisting of two rooms and an attic. Floors were of six-inch flooring and one foot wide sheeting; four half windows with four panes of glass 12 x 14; one outside door. Mosquito netting was used as screen. Walls were nicely white-washed. Tables and benches were home made. Altogether it was real comfortable.

We lived in the "soddy" six years. Out buildings were made of sod, roofed with slough grass and willows, or clay and slough grass. Most everyone had a dug well. Bucket and rope brought

the water to the surface. Later a pump, constructed similar to an elevator operated by a crank, was in use. Then a pipe and pump system was a great improvement, mostly installed by a man by the name of Jim Donahue. Some years later windmills were erected. Uncle Will Wegner owned the first one in the vicinity. My father owned both a team of horses and a yoke of oxen.

Sod was broken with what was called a breaking plow. One section was used to level the ground. Corn was planted on sod, hoed by hand; then when ripe was husked into backets and carried to the wagon, later to be shelled by hand or hand corn sheller. Small grain was sown broadcast by hand, and harvested with scythe and sickle at first. Later a reaper where one man drove the team, another stood on a platform and bound the grain, and then the wire self-binder were used.

Grass was at first cut with a scythe into swaths, then raked with a wooden hand rake and forked into little mounds to dry, and finally hauled in by wagon and stacked near the corrals. As time went on, a farmer that had twenty-five acres of corn was considered a big farmer.

Crops consisted mostly of spring wheat, rye, millet, some oats, barley and corn. Sorghum was sparingly raised for sorghum molasses. As the farmers acquired more land they also raised more livestock. Grass was very abundant. It grew so luxurantly that one almost got lost in it. Cows that were recently freshened had to be milked three times a day. In the fall the dry grass was a constant fire hazard. I remember some prairie fires that really came near taking some of the homes.

Wheat and corn for flour and meal were taken to Brewer's Mill, driven by water power. It was located on the Platte River near where the Ostermans now live. A Mr. Brinkerhoff owned a livery barn in Lone Tree. Farmers used to unhitch their teams, feed and water them before they started home. Prairie Creek and Warm Slough had to be forded.

In the spring it was nothing unusual to have a three-day rain. Sometimes the water would come up almost to the house from a slough that was several rods east of the place. The only trees grew along the Loup and Platte Rivers, along Prairie Creek willows and wild plum trees, and wild grapes grew in abandon. Prairie Creek was only about a quarter of a mile east of the place and frequently overflowed and inundated acres.

Ducks, geese, sand hill cranes, prairie chickens and quail were very abundant. In the spring of the year geese and ducks came by the thousands. The geese sometimes settled on the wheat fields. Well do I remember when my brother Henry and I were supposed to keep them from settling on the field, but they were so tame if we chased them from one place they flew a little way and settled again. We were woefully defeated and went home crying. Father shot many in the early days. Ducks were so thick on the slough they made such a racket one could not sleep. Prairie chickens were killed by thousands by hunters that came from quite a distance, and were packed in barrels and shipped to Omaha.

I distinctly remember the blizzard of 1888. On January the 7th it had snowed all day and also the 8th till about 2 o'clock. Then the wind changed to the north and the awful storm was on. I believe it was three days before the livestock could be looked

after. My husband's folks lost 30 head of hogs that smothered under a large snow drift.

At my home we were all at home but my husband had been to school. The teacher dismissed school as soon as the storm broke, but before he got a mile from the school he could not see anything, but made his way to a neighbor's and stayed till the storm was over. His father was helping a neighbor shell corn and did not get home till the storm was over. That left mother Wegner with several small children to watch and wait for the return of her dear ones, but they came home alright.

Church, school and social life was not neglected. A school house was built in District 46, known as the Baker school house, situated on the southeast corner of the farm now owned by Albert Wegner. My first teacher was Miss Laura Goodrich, who is now Mrs. John Knapp of near Palmer. I had previously gone a few months to a teacher whose name I do not recall.

I remember County Superintendent Anson K. Holmes, and Bert W. Baker. Mr. Baker was a beautiful singer and he and his wife owned the only grand piano in the community. C. D. Chapman was director of the school for many years. The "three R's" were most important as to the qualifications of a teacher.

In this same little schoolhouse a Sunday School was organized with Uncle Will Wegner as superintendent, which position he held for more than 25 years. Later a fine church of the Evangelical denomination was erected on the same place where the large imposing church now stands.

If I am not mistaken, the first post office was located in the Mikeldare home where Albert Wegner now lives. In the year 1888 the CB&Q Railroad built a branch road from Lincoln to Sargent and Burwell. Prior to that time the Adams Center creamery had been built on a bend of Prairie Creek about 1 1/4 miles south and west of Archer. A little store also served the community very well after the advent of the railroad. The creamery and store were moved to Archer. Mr. Adams sold his interest in the creamery and store to Emil Hansen and J. B. Templin. C. D. Chapman operated a hardware store.

Most farmers did quite a bit of dairying. My folks milked as high as 30 cows and others also milked heavily. The first cream separator of the U.S. type was owned by August Wegner. My father for some time used tread power to run the separator. A little burro furnished the power. Sometimes he refused to do his bit and had to be coaxed by an ear of corn.

Before the advent of the cream separator, milk was strained into five gallon cream cans, cooled in water and after about 12 hours the cream was skimmed and taken to the creamery, although before that time mother churned hundreds of pounds of butter.

My mother used a chain stitch table model sewing machine, operated by hand.

Father was a good musician, could play most any instrument. Through his efforts quite a sizeable singing school was organized. He used an old fashioned tuning fork to give the key notes. Mother started singing. Many times in the winter the soddy was so crowded with singers that the oil lamp was extinguished from lack of fresh air.

Mother also made tallow candles. A tallow mixture was poured into the molds that had sticks laid across the mold, with

the wicking tied to the sticks to keep it in the center. These could only be used in the winter.

Soap was made by filling barrels with wood ashes then pouring water through, and the resulting lye was used to make soap. Fuel was mostly wood hauled from the Loup River. Even cow chips were used and some used twisted hay.

Father hauled wood from Horse Creek some twelve miles from home. The best of the wood was across the river and was to be had only after the river had frozen over. Once the whole load had to be sacrificed because the ice gave way and the only way to keep the horses and wagon from going under the ice was to unload the wood.

I recall when Fred Rembolt, who lived about 12 miles south and west from our place, came one night about 9 o'clock, stayed all night then the next morning, real early, he and father had breakfast and wrapped papers and burlap around their feet and left for the river. Bitter cold did not deter them. Their families' comfort depended on their being able to deliver the fuel.

Grasshoppers and chichbugs were a means to discourage the farmers. Hail and drouth of '94 were devastating.

In the early years the covered wagons were a constant sight during early spring and fall. One mother kept eighteen persons overnight. How she managed I don't recall. The main road from Lone Tree to St. Paul ran by our place and it seemed to be a foregone conclusion that travelers could find lodging at our place, as father never turned anyone down.

Father was an all-around handy man. He mended shoes during the winter months for the entire neighborhood. He also to my knowledge made at least half a dozen caskets. They looked neat and were lined with muslin. It would take up too much space to describe the method of making them, although I remember distinctly how he made them.

I also remember the literary societies, chatauquas and spelling bees. Christmas, Easter, Fourth of July, Thanksgiving were the big days looked forward to. On the Fourth of July a picnic was held in the August Wegner timber claim and vied with Christmas in popularity. There would be a big dinner with free lemonade. Brinniger and Hostetter sent out barrels of fans as souvenirs and then the races and games helped make the day an unforgettable one.

Later, the Archer Band was organized, directed by Ed T. Sullivan. It was a large band and at one Fourth of July captured first prize at the Nebraska State Fair.

I quite clearly remember the Indian uprising and the resulting massacre by Scotts Bluff. Captain Emil Hansen was called to service. How we all hoped for his safe return. He was a man that did so much to help build the community. I had never seen a live Indian, but was scared stiff of a wooden one that stood on the street in Lone Tree.

There was a large prairie dog colony about a mile west of Archer. Owls and snakes were their companions. Cinch bugs, grasshoppers and hail were a means to discourage the farmers but they were pioneers and did not give up.

The slow moving oxen gave way to more horses, wagons to spring wagons, top buggies and carriages to automobiles. But the social activities did not keep pace with the advent of more

rapid transportation. Also after more modern machinery was used, people farmed more land.

I still can hear the musical hum and drone of the old horse-power driven threshing machine. I remember the first appendicitis operation, done by Drs. Minnich and Paxton. Mrs. August Wegner acted as nurse to the whole community for many years. I also remember that the farmers would go to the rivers and cut cotton-wood and willow withes, then cut into one foot length, they were stuck into the ground where they were to grow. Many of the timber claims were started that way. Fine gardens were raised and helped to feed the rapidly growing population. Large families were the order of the day and very few went hungry.

The pioneers were a sturdy lot. The mothers especially carried heavy burdens. Besides their natural work of taking care of the home, many did their own spinning and knitting and all clothes were made at home. Still they took time to help their neighbors.

After more rapid transportation, neighborly gatherings and spelling bees gave way to more modern amusements and the pioneer spirit of helpful, friendly activities were gradually shoved in the background. Although still practiced, it lacks the flavor of genuine friendship.

These are some of the things I remember of the good old days of long ago.

Respectfully,
Mrs. John W. Wegner

--Taken from the booklet, "Descendents of Frank and Minnie Zamzow" by Betty Schmaltz Unger, 1976

# THE HERMAN WELLER FAMILY

Herman and Anna Weller were married in Saxony, Germany where he worked in the woolen mills. Herman had a brother, Ernest, who was farming near St. Libory, Nebraska and after a few years Herman left for America to learn about farming. He stayed in America a few years and then went back to Germany to get his family. It was about three years before they could make the trip back to America. A young girl came with them to help with the children--Martha, Ernie, and Richard, a 6-month old baby who was very ill on the way over. They came by ship and then by train. When they arrived there was no one to meet them and they walked to the farm of his brother, Ernie, where they lived for the next seven years and where five more children were born--Mary, Anna, Lydia, Minnie and Herman Jr. In 1903 they moved to a 240 acre farm northwest of Archer, between Archer and Palmer. It was there that a daughter, Ruth, was born.

The children went to District 58 School and the family attended Archer Zion Evangelical Church (now the Archer Zion United Methodist Church).

Around 1919 the family (Herman, Anna, Herman Jr., and Ruth) moved to another farm in the area. Herman Jr. farmed this farm and Richard took over farming the previous farmstead. Anna died January 7, 1925 and when Herman Jr. married in 1926 Herman Weller moved to a house built by Richard on his farm and lived there until his death January 27, 1930.

Herman and Anna had two children, Ernest and Rose, who died in Germany in infancy. Martha is now 97 and living in Oregon with one of her six daughters. Richard's son Merton lives northwest of Archer, Mary is 92 and living with her daughter in Las Vegas, Nevada. Anna's children Dwaine (Wegner) and Darlene (Kuhn) live in the Central City/Archer area. Lydia is 89 and lives in Archer, as do two of her children--Leland and Wauneta (McBride). Minnie is 86 and lives in Hampton. Herman's sons Kenny and Merle live in the Palmer/Archer area. Ruth is 81 and lives on a farm near Palmer.

--From information submitted by
Pat Weller

## BUREN WELLS, MAIL CARRIER

Buren Wells succeeded Deacon Gardner as Archer's mail carrier. The following tribute was paid to him in Fred A. Marsh's "According to my Tell", September 24, 1958.

Buren Wells was a faithful public servant. Few men, I think, ever serve as long and faithfully as did Buren in carrying mail out of Palmer and Archer. We have often said that "Punctuality" was his middle name. Unless road conditions were very bad, patrons knew almost to the minute, when their mail would arrive. In his private life, I am told, he was meticulously careful of time, following a schedule which did not permit of waste. Mr. Wells was especially skilled in woodcraft. Some of his inlaid work is said to be especially beautiful. Any tribute which I might attempt could not add to the testimony of hundreds who came for his funeral, laden with flowers to express respect for his memory and sympathy for his loved ones.

Julia and Buren Wells

# CHARLES H. WOODWARD

Charles H. Woodward passed away at a Grand Island hospital, January 28.

The son of William and Jennie Woodward, he was born March 6, 1870 at Marshalltown, Iowa. He was married to Miss Florence Herring at Lowell, Nebraska, December 8, 1890. Following their marriage they lived in the Lowell and Newark area until until 1890 at which time they came to Archer. the family home was established at that time, being dissoved at the passing of Mrs. Woodward in 1952.

After rearing their immediate family they took twin granddaughters who were left motherless at the age of seven months and gave them all of the love and kindness that they gave their own children.

Mr. Woodward is survived by a son, Pryor Cort of Archer, Mrs. Mae Swan of Kearney, Mrs. Pearl Willis of Central City, Mrs. Opal Campbell of Alda, Mrs. Lola Widman of Wood River, and Mrs. Vera Van Pelt of Archer.

Fred Marsh in his "According to my Tell" states, "For a full half century,Charles H. Woodward dwelt simply and grandly in our midst. No sham, pretense, or duplicity marred his life. Yesterday, today, and always, he was the same kindly gentleman."

Central City Republican Nonpareil
January 31, 1957.

Mr. Woodward is best remembered as the manager of the Hord Company Grain elevator in Archer.

ZAMZOW--RUDOLF

When my mother, Louise Zamzow Rudolf, was a girl, she lived with her family on a farm about two and three fourth miles southwest of Archer. The children attended school in Archer and usually walked. The school was a wooden two story building with the first five grades downstairs. When Mom and a boy were the only two in the fifth grade, the County School Superintendent said that if they would study hard, they could be moved upstairs to the sixth grade. She said that in doing so, she missed out on fractions and never was good at them. The schoolhouse burned on a Sunday. The school children were happy. They thought they wouldn't have to go to school for the rest of the year, but much to their dismay, other arrangements were made for their schooling.

Grandpa Frank Zamzow was very musical. In Germany, he wanted to attend a Music Academy. His father took him there and the headmaster tested him. He said that Grandpa had no musical talent whatever so they couldn't take him. Grandpa pleaded. The headmaster finally said they would take him for a year, but if he didn't improve they couldn't keep him. It was a four year course and Grandpa finished it in three years. Grandpa could play a number of different instruments.

Grandma had a beautiful soprano voice and when the church, then Zion Evangelical, was first established Grandpa conducted the singing. Grandpa didn't have a good sining voice. When the church obtained an organ Grandpa played it. Aunt Martha Zamzow (Foster) and Aunt Josie Zamzow (Fieselman) played the organ at church and after they were married, Aunt Alma Zamzow (Miller) and Mom played for the services. Mom played there for over fifty years. She started playing there when she was fourteen years old.

There was a Zamzow orchestra. Hulda (Schmaltz) played the piano; Mom the first violin; Alma (Miller), 2nd violin; Otto, cornet; Frank, trombone; and two friends played with them--Deke Gardner saxophone or flute; and Ed Wegner, clarinet.

The early ministers were so stern. Many times they came to Grandma and Grandpa's home for dinner The children were, according to Mom, scared to death of

them. One time one of Mom's sisters went down in the cellar below the kitchen because she didn't want to talk to the ministers. She couldn't hear what was being said and after she thought was sufficient time she rapped on the cellar ceiling and asked, "Are they gone yet?" Unfortunately, they weren't!

Grandmother Nemitz lived with Grandma and Grandpa Zamzow. Grandmother Zamzow lived with Uncle Albert and Aunt Hannah Zamzow. These two ladies were the best of friends. They walked back and forth to visit each other. They always hoped that they could die on the same day and be buried the same day. Grandma Nemitz died first on January 29 1887, and while Grandpa went to Central City that day to get a casket, his mother died. Their funerals were held on the same day--an extremely cold day. A lady from Archer brought an old fashioned jug full of water, set it on the heating stove so it would be warm to help her keep warm on the way home. The minister was in the middle of his sermon when the cork blew off and hit the ceiling!

Submitted by Rosemary Rudolf Beeching, Dayton, Ohio.

William Wegner-age 25

Bertha Rudolf-age 9

Later Mrs. Wm. Wegner

William Wegner was born at Stoewen, in the Province of Pommerary, Germany on November 4, 1848. He came to America for reasons of political freedom and security at the age of 19 with his brothers Carl (21), August (16), and Herman (8). After spending 5 years in Portage, Wisconsin, he came to Merrick County in 1872 and homesteaded 8 1/2 miles west and 3 miles north of Lone Tree (now Central City), the current Gerhard Bruns farm.

On March 28, 1874 William married Charlotte Wilhelmina Bertha Rudolf, daughter of Frederick and Louise Buzz Rudolf, who was born in Giessen Collis, Province of Pommerary, Germany. Bertha came to America at the age of 9 and found employment in the home of a wealthy family in Wisconsin.

Will Wegner became a friend in need to many German settlers who came to the area to homestead. He helped them with language and legal problems and financial assistance.

In 1877 his parents, F. William Wegner and (step-mother) Henrietta Prochno Wegner, also came to America, bringing his youngest brother Gustav (age 14). William's mother, Wilhelmina Schlueter, had passed away in 1873.

In 1875 their first child was born, followed by ten other children: Helena (Suck), Wilhelmina (Ita), William, Herman, Albert, Bertha (Mundt), Martha (Suck), Ella (Riggs), Edward, Louis and Dora (Hansen). The family was close-knit and worked together. They were educated at District #47.

The men of the family did hunting and fishing on the Loup River which provided meat for the family. The woods along the Loup also provided much of the fuel for the winter.

The family home was always open for visitors and many stopped to visit. There were no hotels in those days so a room (called the "preacher's room") was reserved for visitors, and usually used by the travelling ministers. The family never used this room. The famous orator and presidential candidate, William Jennings Bryan, was a friend of Will Wegner and an occassional guest.

Will Wegner served as a county supervisor and was instrumental in helping to organize and establish the Zion Church. He led prayer meetings and served as Sunday School Superintendent for 38 years.

About 1906 William and Bertha moved to Archer where they lived for about 15 years in the home presently occupied by the Harry Stuhl family. Will Wegner passed away June 6, 1920. Bertha died on June 10, 1921.

--Compiled from accounts by Ella Wegner Riggs and Dora Wegner Hansen

From Newspaper Obituary, 1920

In 1878 Mr. Wegner was converted under the labors of Rev. Stellrecht, a missionary of the Evangelical Association, and it was due to the influence of the departed that the present charge of the Zion's church of Archer was then organized. He was shortly afterwards elected both Sunday school superintendent and class leader of the charge. In the capacity of the former he served 35 years and in the capacity of the latter to the end of his days. As trustee of the church he served 15 years and in 1916 represented the Nebraska Conference as lay delegate to the General Conference in San Francisco. In public office he served on the board of supervisors 11 yrs, 6 years of which he was the chairman of the board.

About 10 days ago he contracted a severe cold which turned into pneumonia and in spite of all medical aid and care, he continued to grow worse and on Sunday, June 6, at 5:35 a.m. he passed into the great beyond to enter into his reward. He leaves to mourn his loss a bereaved widow, four sons, six daughters, thirty-three grandchildren and three brothers.

Uncle Willie, as he was commonly called, was a man of sterling qualities, who bravely and courageously faced the obstacles and privations of pioneer life, until his efforts were crowned with splendid success. He was a man very much devoted to his family and among his neighbors and friends he was held in highest esteem. He was a leader among men in his surroundings.

The William Rudolf Family in 1874

Soldiers leaving to take part in World War I. Phocian Hansen is second from right.

Crowd waiting to welcome home soldiers who served in World War I.

# SOCIAL LIFE

## C. O. A.

C.O.A., an early century Archer sorority, was organized on July 30, 1912. Hulda Zamzow, Dora Wegner, Mae Woodward, Addie Lehr, Arta and Veda Hansen met at the Hansen home and became charter members.

The following officers were elected:

President--Hulda Zamzow
Vice president--Mae Woodward
Secretary-treasurer--Veda Hansen
Historian--Arta Hansen
Sergeant at arms--Addie Lehr
Counselor--Dora Hansen

(It seems that there was an office for each member.)

Tuesday evening of every week at 7:45 was the time set for the meeting. The election of officers was to take place every nine weeks. The dues were ten cents a month.

Several of the girls had steady boy friends. Addie Lehr's was Miner Whaley. Miner Whaley called the young ladies, "Carpe diems of Archer." Since Miner was a druggist, he probably studied enough Latin to know that "Carpe diem" is Latin for "Enjoy the present day." "Enjoyment of the present day" appears in their pledge.

The C.O.A.s were an energetic group. They even had yells and songs worthy of high school cheer squads. One yell was

"Booma lacka! Booma lacka!
Booma lacka! Say!
Archer, Archer! C.O.A."

They sang a song to the tune of the "Bulldog on the Bank."

1. "Oh, the chocolates on the shelf
   And the peanuts in the bar,
   If you put your glasses on
   You can see us from afar.

2. "Oh, the crackers in the box
   And the wafers in the can
   If you can trade with us
   We'll treat you like a man."

Agnes Anderson was the first initiate.

The club met with the approval of the Methodists. Its members attended the ice cream social on August 2, 1912 at the Methodist Church and were introduced by the minister, Rev. Sanders.

Margaret Madison, Florence Gilham, Elizabeth Sporer, and Tillie Zamzow were taken in as members in 1913 and 1914.

The C.O.A. was not an exclusive club. Nearly all the young women of Archer became members.

At times they sought culture. They studied the literary works of Longfellow, Whittier, Alice and Phoebe Cary and others. They became familiar with the paintings of Rosa Bonheur and Millet.

When the club met in the country members' homes, Phocian Hansen, Miner Whaley, John Zamzow, Ed McCutcheon, and Alva Kiser were on hand with their buggies to see that the girls got safely home.

During its final years, 1927-28, the following women were members:

Veda Hansen Babel, Addie Lehr Whaley, Hulda Zamzow Schmaltz, Rose Osterman Hansen, Ina Anderson Shull, Agnes Anderson Kiser, Nell Baker Gardner, Arta Hansen McCutcheon, Josie Zamzow Fieselman, Dora Wegner Hansen, Nettie Hill Zamzow, Tillie Zamzow, Iona Shull Brannan, and Ella Wegner Riggs.

Some early COA members plus two boy friends.
Back row--left to right, Leon Mckendry, Dora Wegner, Warren Riggs.
Middle row--Margaret Madison, Addie Lehr, Ella Wegner
Front row--Mae Woodward, Arta Hansen

The normal course of events, deaths, moving to other localities, and too busy family schedules separated these good friends. All that is left of the C.O.A. are a few secretarial records, some bookkeeping figures, and some snapshots.

## THE LAF-A-LOT CLUB

The Laf-a-lot Club came later. Since its main purpose was playing auction bridge, no records were kept. Among the members were Lena Sullivan, Viola Rankin, Dorothy Sinsel, Luella Watson, Irene Boelts, Helen Boelts, Wilma Brandt, Margaret Johnston, Geneva Woodward, Helen Hansen, Hester Crites, and Marjorie Bonness.

Most of the members regarded the club as an evening of fun and visiting. One member, however, regarded bridge as a very serious matter and very often questioned her partner, "Why on earth did you play that?"

The Laf-aLot Club, like the C.O.A., became a victim of circumstances. Most of the members moved to other areas.

## LODGES

There were two lodges in Archer--the Modern Woodmen of America and its auxiliary, Royal Neighbors. At the time of their organization, they met in the Town Hall above Wegner's Implement Shop. When the Town Hall was no longer used, those lodges met in the church basement. As they were secret societies, no outsider really knew what they were all about. I think nationally, their main purpose was to provide life insurance, but I may be mistaken about that.

I remember at an Epworth League party in the church basement, two snoopy young men found the paraphernalia for the Woodmen's secret ritual in a closet and gave us an interpretation of its use.

ARCHER YOUTH ABOUT 1910-11

Back row--Warren Riggs, Mae Woodward, Ed Wegner, Dora Wegner
Front row--Wallace Anderson, Ella Wegner, Ed McCutcheon, Agnes Anderson, Leon McKendry.

ROYAL NEIGHBORS

of

AMERICA and ARCHER..

# HATS

Hats were important items in a lady's wardrobe in the early 20th Century. No real lady would appear in church without a hat.

Above--Dora Wegner, Hulda Zamzow, and (I think) Elsa Liebhart.

Right--Maude Hockett and Hulda Zamzow

Some of Archer's youth in the early part of the century, including Warren Riggs, Hulda Zamzow, Dora Wegner, Margaret Madison, Ed Wegner, Arta McCutcheon, Ella Wegner, Leon McKendry, Addie Whaley, and Agnes Kiser

Ella Wegner (look at that waistline!)

Ella Wegner, (Mrs. Warren Riggs)

Leon McKendry, Warren Riggs, and Mr. McMaster (?)

Frank Techmeier, known as Tack-hammer. This is trick photography. Both men are Tack.

# FOURTH OF JULY AT WEGNER'S GROVE

Wegner's Grove, one and one half mile north of the Archer Zion Church, was the result of a timber claim. It was the setting for Fourth of July picnics. August Wegner, a native of Germany, felt a keen patriotism for his adopted country and his picnic was a great annual event in the early part of the century. Our senior citizens especially remember the lemonade. Some say that Mr. Wegner made it. Some say that a Mr. Rudolf made it. Others say that perhaps both did. It was made in twenty gallon crocks and was much enjoyed by the picnickers. Mr. Wegner welcomed everyone.

According to stories, Mrs. Wegner was a very patient woman. There were litterbugs in those days and people were not above tracking mud on her floors. She bore all this uncomplainingly. Some people weren't above feeding Mr. Wegner's oats to their horses.

People brought their picnic lunches. There were races for the children and ball games for the big boys and young men. The crowd sang songs and there was a parade. Some of the young women who rode horses in the parade wore red, white and blue outfits. Cap Boelts, who was a little boy at the time, tells that his parents bought him a red, white and blue cap. He was very unhappy when the colors in his cap ran in a rain.

There were firecrackers for the children and fireworks in the evening for everyone.

George Retzlaff tells that his father demanded a morning's work from his boys before they could go to the picnic. They had to mow certain plots of ground before they could celebrate the Fourth of July at Wegner's Grove.

Louise, Hulda, and Alma Zamzow ready for Wegner's Fourth of July picnic

# ARCHER BAND

Edward T. Sullivan Sr., Archer Band Master, came from the East to Palmer, Nebraska and later settled in Merrick County on a homestead 1 1/2 miles north and 1 mile east of Archer.

His first band was in Palmer. He later formed the Archer Band, made up of mostly farm men. They practiced mostly at the Sullivan farm home and practiced marching on the road from Sullivan's place to John Keyes' farm 1/2 mile north. They played around the community gatherings when asked. They always played on July 4th for a large country picnic which was held at the Wegner Grove, 2 miles west of Archer. Their uniforms were white Derck pants, white shirts and black ties. Later they had uniforms.

They entered contests when ever they could and entered one big band contest in Chicago. They went by train and on arriving in Chicago, getting off the train in their white pants, shirts and black ties, they were met by several big bands welcoming them in their beautiful colored uniforms. Frank Wegner, the band manager, said to Mr. Sullivan, "Ed, we may as well go home." Ed said, "The uniforms don't make the band, Frank." They then played their pieces-- Elcapatan by John Phillip Sousa. One big man came over and asked the name of the piece and who wrote it. That time they also played 'Stars and Stripes Forever" which those bands also did not know. All band members were required to learn to sight-read. When they got to the contest Mr. Sullivan suggested playing a certain piece. The other band could not play as they could not sightread. Archer won the First Prize.

One time after World War I there was a Welcome Home gathering for the boys home from the war at the Howard Brannan home in the yard.

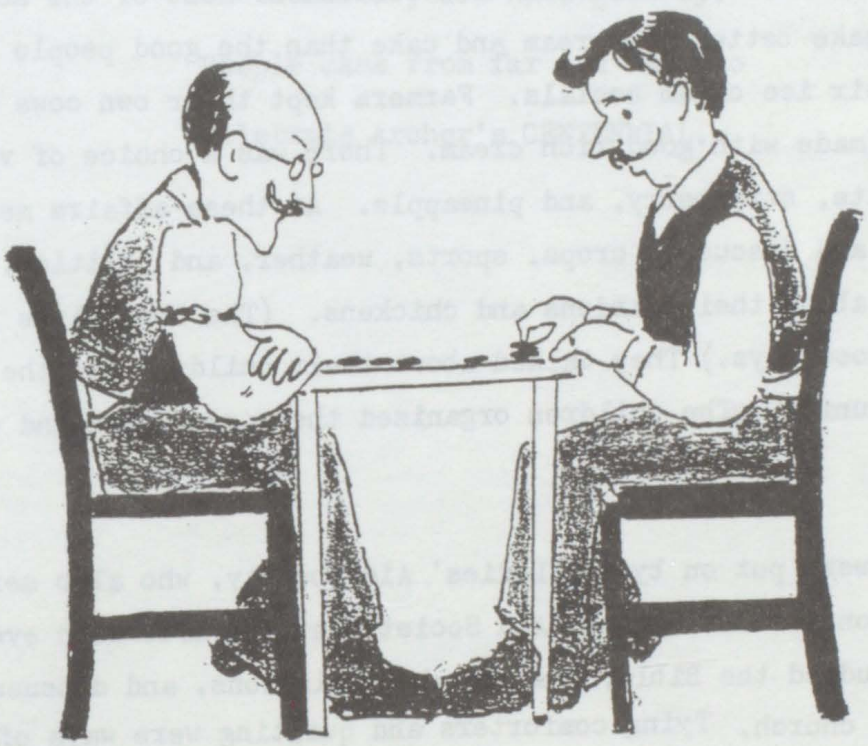
--Rememberances from
Lena Sullivan
(Mrs. Edward T. Sullivan, Jr.)

The Archer Band entertained in Palmer on the Fourth of July, 1900.

Coyote Hunt -- Deacon Gardner called them "wolf hunts". He gave a detailed account in his items of the captains of each area.

SOME EARLY ARCHER SINNERS.
In those days card playing was a major evil.

BEHIND THE 8 BALL.



CHECKERS, ANYONE?

The Methodists who had established themselves in Archer, frowned upon two of Archer's amusement centers--the pool hall and the dance hall. The pool hall was on the ground floor of a two story building just north of Wegner's Implement Shop. An outdoor stairway led to the dance hall on the second floor.

Wesley Huff, who ran a meat market, served hot lunches, and who also worked for the railroad, managed these two smoke-filled "dens of vice". The pool hall and dance hall were hangouts for the local bachelor delinquents who liked their liquor and enjoyed rough fist fights.

The activity most enjoyed by some of the middle aged Archer men was checkers. The checker players met at the store which was owned by Hansen and Templin, later by Riggs and Wegner, and then Warren Riggs. Some of the checker players were "Honest" John Boelts (cousin of F. G. Boelts and John Boelts, the polititian), Chris Franks, and Louis Stander. It was good clean fun.

Actually, the churches and schools were centers of most of the social life. Nobody could make better ice cream and cake than the good people of the church for their ice cream socials. Farmers kept their own cows and the ice cream was made with good rich cream. There was a choice of vanilla, lemon, chocolate, strawberry, and pineapple. At these affairs men found their friends and discussed crops, sports, weather, and politics. The women visited about their gardens and chickens. (The housewives raised chickens in those days.) They talked about their children and the goings on in the community. The children organized their own games and entertainment.

These affairs were put on by the Ladies' Aid Society, who also served dinners to make money. The Ladies' Aid Society met one afternoon every other week. They studied the Bible, learned about missions, and discussed ways of helping the church. Tying comforters and quilting were ways of making money.

1987

One hundred years have gone by.

People came from far and near to

celebrate Archer's CENTENNIAL.

MAY 23, 1987

| | |
|---|---|
| PRESENTATION OF COLORS | Mike Fuehrer<br>Jack Gilmont<br>Bill Green<br>John Miller |
| YOU ARE MY SUNSHINE<br>DEAR OLD ARCHER | Henrietta Gilmont &<br>Emma Jean Nedrig |
| CHAS IN DRIVE (drum solo) | Chuck Krance |
| FUTURE ASPIRATIONS | Fairview Youth Group |
| DEAR HEARTS AND GENTLE PEOPLE | Merleen Paulsen |
| PEGGY O'NEIL<br>MEMORIES<br>WHEN THE ROLL IS CALLED UP YONDER | Country Cousins |
| ELVIRA | Poverty Ridge Singers |
| FOULK FAMILY REPRESENTATIVE WITH A SONG SHE WROTE | Maggie Holtorf |
| DANNY BOY | Harold Rudolf |
| MONOLOGUE | Tracey Jefferson |
| MARINE'S HYMN (piano solo) | Justin Ferris |
| DUET | Justin & Jay Ferris |
| THE UGLIEST PERSON ALIVE | Archer Oil & Friends |
| THE IMPOSSIBLE DREAM | Earl Higgins |
| I'LL FLY AWAY<br>LIFE'S RAILWAY TO HEAVEN | Kay Boelts &<br>Jeannie Peregrine |
| THINGS I HATE | Norman Marsh |
| GO YE INTO ALL THE WORLD (Piano Solo) | Randy Fuehrer |
| BUMBLE BOOGIE (piano solo)<br>DUST IN THE WIND (guitar solo) | Stacey Fattig |
| A TRIBUTE TO THE GREAT STATE OF NEBRASKA | Leah Lindner & Daisy |
| SINGING AND IMPERSONATIONS | Jay Ferris |
| GOD BLESS AMERICA<br>RETIREMENT OF COLORS | All |

# Archer Centennial focusing on July 4th

UNDER THE SPREADING CHESTNUT TREE...With the second big Archer Centennial event coming up July 4th, Archer residents are now busy preparing for that Centennial activity. It will include a barbecue at the Community Center, free movies, nickel ice cream cones and a street dance that night in downtown Archer.

Pointing out former village landmarks, and current business sites to Centennial visitors will be 17 attractive signs created by Helen Boelts and Nadine Johnston. Above, Dwain Van Pelt and Dean Hartwig position the last sign in place at the long ago site of the village smithy.

The signs will remain in place through the final Centennial celebration scheduled at Archer for the weekend of August 15 and 16. You're invited to stop out for a time of reminiscence about the early days in the Archer community. Remember to locate all 17 signs on your trip down heritage lane.

Van Pelt, who also is chairman of the Memorial Park committee, which will be dedicated during the August Centennial festivities, has announced a park Work Day this coming Friday, June 19, from 9:30 a.m. on through the day. He encourages everyone to set aside some time to help them set the area in order, mow, perform a few carpentry chores, plant trees, and work on outdoor play equipment. He also hopes to have the former Gardner School hand water pump, donated by the Raymond Schanks, installed by the July 4th celebration. You don't have to call. Just join your neighbors at the park this Friday for a clean-up, fix-up day.

---Republican-Nonpareil photo

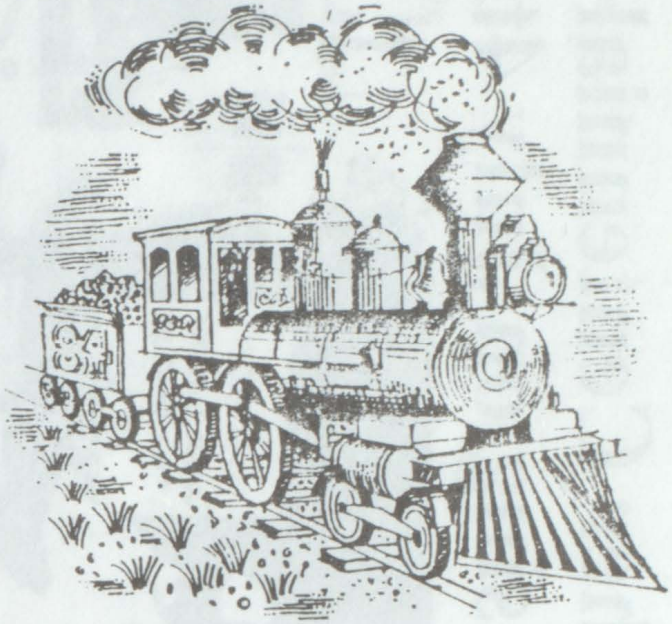
| | | | |
|---|---|---|---|
| PLAT | Lincoln Land Company, | Cons. | |
| | By its President and | Dated | September 23, 1887 |
| | Secretary (Corp. Seal) | Ack'd | September 23, 1887 |
| No. 5 | | Filed | October 6, 1887 |
| | To | Revenue | Witnesses One |
| Book C | | Ack'd before | F.M. Glenn (Vol.) |
| | Town of Archer | N.P. | Lancaster Co., Nebraska |
| Page 35 | | Seal | Yes. Com. exp. |

Conveys: Plat of Original Town of Archer, Nebraska.
Dedicates streets and alleys to public use, situated on part of Sections 20 and 21, all in Township 14, North, Range 7, West of the 6th P. M., Merrick County Nebraska.

See Exhibit "A" for photostatic copy of part of Plat filed in the office of the County Clerk of Merrick County, Nebraska.

*Archer Souvenirs available at*
*Archer Co-op Credit Union*

# *Centennial Program*



# *Archer*

# 1887 - 1987

**Friday - Saturday - Sunday**

**AUGUST 14-15-16**

# Come Out And Help Us Celebrate Our 100th Birthday!

## *Friday Night, August 14*

Hard-Times Card Party.....8:00 p.m.
Archer Community Center
Each family attending should bring sandwiches or cookies. "Hard-times" dress is encouraged.
Prizes Awarded.

## *Saturday, August 15*

Coffee and More (reminiscing of Archer).....9:30 a.m.
Archer Memorial Park
Hosted by Archer Area Senior Citizens

Lunch Items available in Park.....11:30 a.m.
from Mobile Munchies Concessions

Historical Tours of Archer.....1:00 p.m.
Meet in front of Bank

Quilt and Craft Show .....2:00 p.m.

Gun Show.....2:00 p.m.
Archer Agri Services Building

Toy Implement Display .....2:00 p.m.
White Block Building

Centennial Banquet.....6:00 p.m.
Merrick County 4-H Building
Music after Banquet by Carolyn Pratt

## *Sunday, August 16*

Registration for 2K and 6K Fun Run.....7:00 a.m.

Outdoor Community Church Service in Park.....10:30 a.m.

Old Fashioned Picnic in Park.....12:00 Noon

Displays Open.....1:00 - 2:00 p.m.

Whisker Judging Contest.....1:15 p.m.
Ribbons Awarded to Three Best Beards

Parade.....2:00 p.m.
Following Parade, Quilt and Craft Show, Gun Show, and Toy Implement Displays re-open

Children's Tractor Pedal Pulls - Ages 5-12.....3:30 p.m.
$1.00 Entry Fee - Ribbons for all Participants

Beef Barbeque at Park.....4:00 p.m.

Street Dance - Music by Prairie Fire.....6:00-10:00 p.m.

Hot Air Balloon Launch if Weather Permits

To reserve tickets for banquet phone Nora Lindner 946-3326.
To enter Fun Run phone Kathryn Ferris 946-3355

Welcome .....Nora Lindner

Invocation .....Rev. Earl Higgins

Dinner .....Prepared by Elaine Boelts & Family

## *Menu*

Roast Beef

Fried Chicken

Au gratin Potatoes

Creamed Corn

Salad Bar

Rolls

Coffee and Ice Tea

Birthday Cake & Ice Cream

## *Program*

Flashback to Archer's Past.....Scene 1

Music.....Fred Boelts Family Descendants

Special Recognitions

Flashback to Archer's Past.....Scene 2

Stand-Up Activities

Flashback to Archer's Past.....Scene 3

More Special Recognitions

Flashback to Archer's Past.....Scene 4

Sing-ALong.....Led by Clarence Woodward Descendants

Presentation of Deed to Archer Memorial Park

Remarks.....Dwaine Van Pelt
Gerald Carnes

Closing Sing-Along
Archer Will Shine Tonight
Happy Birthday Dear Archer
God Bless America

# EVERYBODY LIKES A PARADE.

Left--Archer Zion United Methodist Youth's float

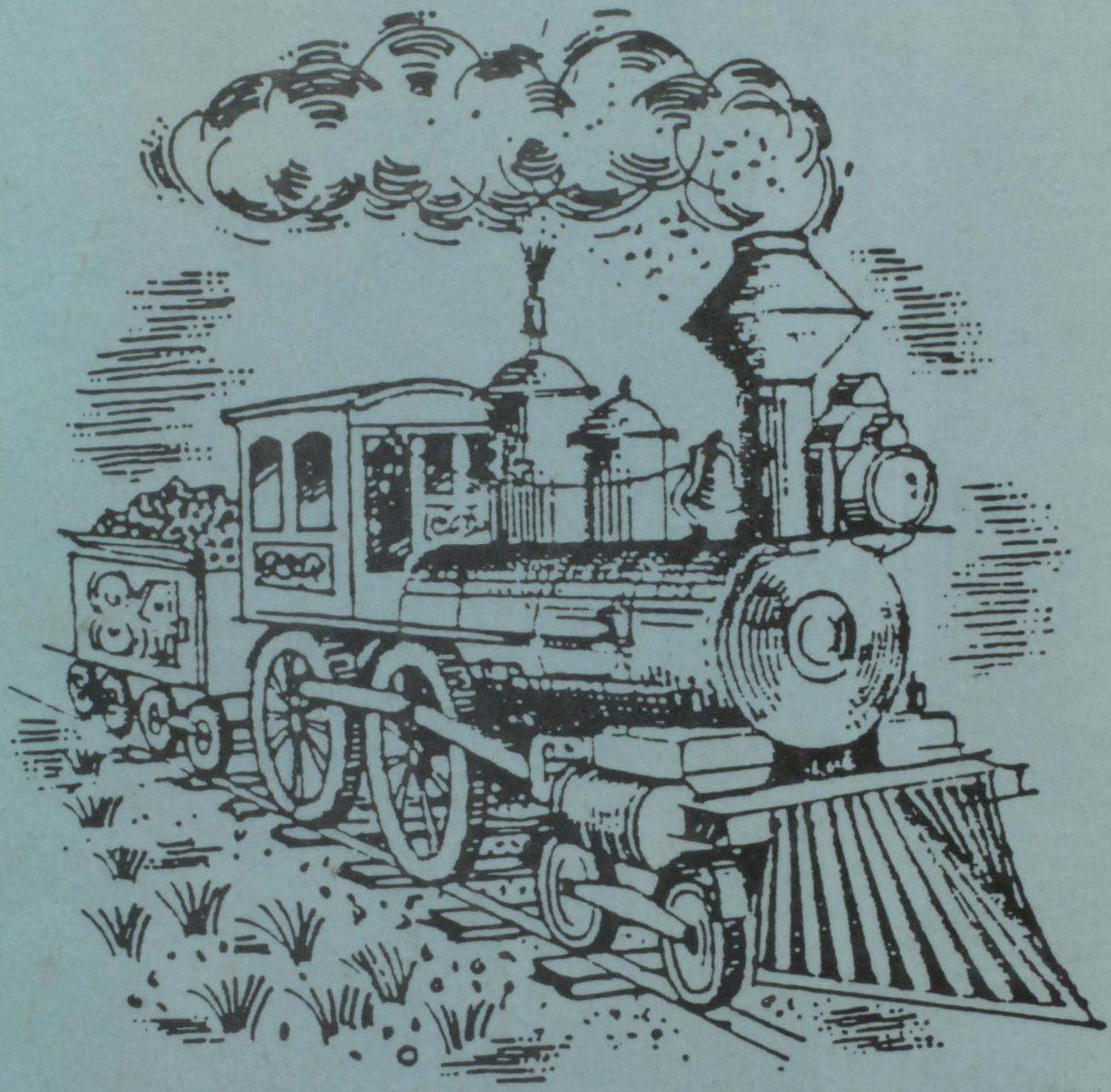
Right--A citizen of Shelton built this float for his enjoyment--not to advertise the Union Pacific Railroad. He entered it in several parades.

Norman and Judy Boelts and son Alex, contributed this "Just for the Halibut" float from Fairbanks, Alaska.

Another view of "Just for the Halibut."

Left--Gail Boelts Cool and her son, Josh, brought their congratulations from North Platte.

Right--Jill Ferris rode side-saddle on her beautiful horse.

THE END.

June, 1989